

Documents in Advance for

CANADIAN YEARLY MEETING

of the

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

and Minutes of

Representative Meeting (November 2018)

2019

**Documents in Advance for
Canadian Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**

composed of*

Canada Yearly Meeting
(Five Years Meeting)

Genesee Yearly Meeting
(General Conference)

Canada Yearly Meeting
(Conservative)

and Minutes of

Representative Meeting

2019

* Since 1955 many new Meetings and individual members have joined Canadian Yearly Meeting. The designation on the previous page was approved in 1955 for inclusion in all published reports and minutes to indicate the pre-existing legal entities now incorporated in Canadian Yearly Meeting.

These *Documents in Advance* are the first part of the Minutes of Canadian Yearly Meeting, 2019. As this material will not be included with the *Minutes and Late Reports* (second part), both volumes will be required for a complete record. *Minutes and Late Reports* will be available in October 2019.

These documents are published on-line and are available for download from our website.

Canadian Yearly Meeting

91A Fourth Avenue

Ottawa, ON K1S 2L1 CANADA

Tel: 613.235.8553 / 888-296-3222 / Fax: 613.235.1753

cym-office@quaker.ca / www.quaker.ca

Thank you,

Kerry MacAdam

Office Administrator

July 2019

CONTENTS

REPRESENTATIVE MEETING MINUTES

Minutes:

November 2018, (Victoria) Representative Meeting	1
Audited Financial Statements, 2018	10

MEMORIAL MINUTES

Barr, Rachel	31
Blythe, Hilary	31
Claridge, Patricia Jean	32
Cressman, Dennis.....	33
Deridder, Ghislain	34
Schmitz-Hertzberg, Kathleen.....	35
Peterson, Betty Farber	37
Ross, Bert	39
Turnbull, Gerald Robert.....	41

REPORTS

YEARLY MEETING COMMITTEES and FRIENDS SERVING CYM

Archives Committee	43
Board of Trustees of CYM	44
Camp NeeKauNis	50
Canadian Friends Foreign Mission Board.....	52
Canadian Friends Service Committee	52
CYM Clerk's Report.....	57
Contributions Committee	59
CYM Privacy Officer	61
Discipline Review Committee	61
Epistle Summarizing Committee	69
Finance Committee	73
Nominating Committee	73
Publications and Communications Committee.....	74
Quaker Ecology Action Network	76
Statistical Secretary Report	77
World Council of Churches, Reporting and Clearness.....	82

REPRESENTATIVES TO WIDER BODIES

Canadian Council of Churches	
Commission on Justice and Peace	85
Friends United Meeting	85
Friends World Committee for Consultation	86
Kairos.....	91
Kairos Ecological Justice Circle.....	96
Kairos Steering Committee.....	97
World Council of Churches.....	100

STATE OF SOCIETY REPORTS

Annapolis Valley Monthly Meeting.....	102
Argenta Monthly Meeting	103
Calgary Monthly Meeting.....	104
Coldstream Monthly Meeting.....	105
Cowichan Valley Monthly Meeting.....	106
Edmonton Monthly Meeting.....	106
Halifax Monthly Meeting	108
Hamilton Monthly Meeting	110
Interior British Columbia Quaker Meeting	111
Kitchener Area Monthly Meeting.....	112
Montreal Monthly Meeting	113
New Brunswick Monthly Meeting	115
Ottawa Monthly Meeting.....	118
Pelham Executive Meeting	120
Peterborough Monthly Meeting.....	121
Prince Edward Island Allowed Meeting	122
Saanich Peninsula Monthly Meeting.....	124
Saskatoon Monthly Meeting	125
Thousand Islands Monthly Meeting	125
Toronto Monthly Meeting.....	126
Vancouver Monthly Meeting	127
Winnipeg Monthly Meeting	128
Yarmouth Monthly Meeting.....	129
Yonge Street Monthly Meeting	130

MINUTES OF REPRESENTATIVE MEETING

Minutes of Representative Meeting Victoria, BC, November 23-24, 2018

Present: *

Friday, 24 November 2018

2018-01: Opening Worship

The Clerk read section 3.8 from *Canadian Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice*:

How does a Quaker Meeting work? Its foundation is the conviction that God is not a distant remote being but a living presence to be discovered in the deep centre of every human being... The Quaker experience is that, in the silence, as we are open to one another in love, we help each other by sharing our strengths and weaknesses. The Quaker conviction is that as we go deeper into ourselves we shall eventually reach a still, quiet centre. At this point two things happen simultaneously. Each of us is aware of our unique value as an individual human being, and each of us is aware of our utter interdependence on one another.

(George Gorman, 1982)

2018-02: Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands

We are deeply grateful to the Lkwungen-speaking people, on whose traditional territory we are gathered, for their stewardship of the land over many generations. We are inspired by the indigenous peoples' respect for the land, and we wish to honour them by working to protect our common environment. We hope we may live together in peace.

2018-03: Welcome and Introductions

- a. Regrets: Dale Andrews [Thousand Islands], Katherine Carmichael [Edmonton], Gini Smith [Yonge Street Half-Yearly], Ruth Kuchinad [Peterborough] (replaced by Ruth Hillman), Susan Tucker [Interior BC] (replaced by Sheila Hobbs).
- b. Housekeeping: covering cost of meals – Vancouver Island Meeting requests \$25 per person. Friends are asked to make cheques out to Religious Society of Friends.

2018-04: Agenda Review

The Clerk asked Friends to consider if it might be better to have our Representative Meeting closer to the midpoint between CYM Sessions. We will revisit this question at the end of these meetings.

2018-05: Receiving Reports and Consent Agenda

Friends approved receiving reports from Trustees (Report 2), Peterborough Monthly Meeting (Report 6), Canadian Friends Foreign Mission Board (Report 9), Publications and Communications Committee (Report 16), Office Management Committee (Report 17), and Contributions Committee (Report 20) as the consent agenda.

The Clerk proposed moving the Finance and Treasurer's reports earlier in the agenda.

Friends approved.

2018-06: Appointing a Reporter for *The Canadian Friend* and quaker.ca Website

David Summerhays (Montreal Monthly Meeting) agreed to serve in this capacity.

2018-07: Clerk's Report (Report 11)

- a. In addition to the items mentioned in her submitted report, the Clerk reported that she also endorsed and signed a letter from the Canadian Council of Churches to ask the Government of Canada to actively pursue a nuclear disarmament treaty.
- b. The Clerks' Committee recommends that the five names that were held over from Yearly Meeting to serve on the Camp NeeKauNis Committee be approved. Friends agreed to name Becca Ivanoff, Lisa Stetler, Wendee Wood, Rachel McQuail and Kris Wilson-Yang to this committee.
- c. In her written report, the Clerk requested some reflection on the issues of privacy and confidentiality as individuals rotate out and into positions in the Yearly Meeting. Friends noted that the authority to open confidential files pertains to the officer's position, as long as the matter is current. Friends expressed discomfort pursuing these questions further in this large body and feel these questions should be discerned further in a smaller body with Friends familiar with privacy and confidentiality issues.

2018-08: News from Meetings, Committees and Young Friends/Young Adult Friends

Friends reported news, joys and concerns from Meetings, committees, Young Friends / Young Adult Friends Yearly Meetings and Half-Yearly Meetings.

2018-09: Closing Worship

Friends gathered in grateful worship before retiring for the night, purposing to meet at the Fern Street Meetinghouse at 9 am.

Saturday, 25 November 2018

2018-10: Opening Worship.

The Clerk read section 3.50 from *Canadian Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice*.

Quaker process is putting into practice our faith in the direct guidance of God in our lives. It is an essential and integral part of our faith. In its corporate form it is uniquely Quaker, common to all branches of Quakerism, and the one thing which sets us apart from other faith communities. The practice of sitting together in worship to discern what it is that God wants us to do, individually and collectively, marked the very beginning of the Religious Society of Friends as an identifiable faith community. Some have attributed the survival of Quakerism to the nature of our corporate practices. Others see it as the only way in which we will continue to revitalize ourselves ... Quaker business meetings are a vehicle for Divine Guidance and unity is the outcome if we listen and are faithful to our Guide. Unity is that sense that we are gathered in the Spirit and that the way of Truth has become clear. As individuals we may not agree at all with the decision that is given us, but we know that it is right and that we must follow.

(Gale Wills, 1998).

2018-11: Responses to the CYM Secretary Report (Report 14)

Canadian Young Friends Yearly Meeting (CYFYM) expressed their appreciation for having the CYM Secretary as a single and reliable point of contact. We are grateful for the transformation that Cam has enabled, and also aware of our growing reliance on our CYM Secretary. We are glad of the good connections that Cam is making within CYM and the energy he continues to bring to this role. We especially value his contributions to structural changes, personnel policies and care for personnel, which are essential services we feel we should not lose, as these allow us to fill other roles more easily. We thank Cameron for clarifying his views about a 4th year of employment (see 2018.08.48). We discussed the future of the CYM Secretary position understanding that our finances may not allow us to continue with the position after 2020.

Business Arising from CYM in Session**2018-12: Location of 2021 CYM in Session (Minute 2018.08.25)**

Friends discussed the benefits and drawbacks of holding CYM at Canadian Mennonite University in Winnipeg from 2019 to 2021 inclusive. Tenting, Food Coop, familiarity with a site (especially for Young Friends), manageable fees and our good relationships with Mennonites are attractive features. We are mindful of issues related to travel and hope we can bear this in mind moving forward. We are in agreement to hold CYM in Session at Canadian Mennonite University for three years running.

2018-13: Canadian Young Friends Yearly Meeting (Minute 2018.08.41)

Young Adult Friends / Young Friends (YAF/YF) had no questions or requests at this time but appreciate being in dialogue with CYM. Their thoughts are on the future of CYM and its accessibility to Young Friends. In future we will regularly make space for YF/YAF on the agenda.

2018-14: Report from Special Interest Group on the No Way to Treat a Child Campaign (Minute 2018.08.55 and Appendix 5)

Maxine Kaufman-Lacusta reminded us of the No Way to Treat a Child (NWTTAC) campaign endorsed by Canadian Friends Service Committee and American Friends Service Committee (Minute 2018.08.55 and Appendix 5). We are concerned about Canadian exchanges with Israel of training and techniques of civilian population control. We encourage Friends to consider reaching out to their federal MPs on this matter to ensure Canadians are not complicit in the abuse of children. We ask individuals and Meetings to discern and respond as they are led, whilst bearing in mind past discernments.

For past discernment by Canadian Friends see 1) the Representative Meeting 2016.11.16 minute, 2) the detailed SIG Report on Israel/Palestine "security" cooperation, and 3) the CYM clerk's letter sent to the Government of Canada objecting to the Canada-Israel Strategic Partnership which mandates ongoing military and defense cooperation and joint training. The latter two references are found with the 2016 minute.

The NWTTAC video "Detaining Dreams" documents interviews with 4 Palestinian children who were arrested and detained and is a useful resource for Meetings (https://www.nwttac.canada.dci-palestine.org/video_detaining_dreams).

Reports

2018-15: CFSC – Relationship to KAIROS and Project Ploughshares (Report 5)

Tasmin Rajotte reported. We approve Yearly Meeting moving all responsibility for Ploughshares from CYM to Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC).

Currently, CYM, as a church body, has membership in KAIROS, but CFSC pays the contribution. CYM agrees to take over financial contributions in a phased manner as suggested by CFSC. The contribution is currently \$5,700/year. Over the course of three years, CYM will incrementally take on the full contribution, and will concurrently explore reducing that contribution. We ask our Clerk to consult with our KAIROS steering committee member on the matter of the reduction.

Friends expressed a desire to reconsider our relationship to KAIROS. Friend Anne Mitchell of Toronto Monthly Meeting currently serves on the KAIROS steering committee; she and KAIROS program circles representatives need to be involved in these considerations. Program circle reps are: Robert Miller (Winnipeg Monthly Meeting) on Indigenous Rights; Ruth Walmsley (Vancouver Monthly Meeting) on Ecological Justice; David Millar (Montreal Monthly Meeting) on Partnership and Rights. We note that in addition to these ties, many Monthly Meetings or individual Friends have relationships with local KAIROS branches. Aspects to consider include the alignment between the activities of CFSC and KAIROS, CFSC's expertise in this area and its responsibilities to KAIROS, legal matters such as the agency agreement, financial contributions, and workload issues for CYM staff. We refer this matter to a working group to be formed after our Finance Committee and Treasurer's report. This working group will consider memberships in external bodies and financial matters more broadly. Their consideration will have implications for our relationships with outside bodies, such as KAIROS.

CFSC reminds Friends to contribute to CFSC as well as CYM. Another way to support CFSC is to buy items they have for sale.

2018-16: Camp NeeKauNis Committee (Report 7)

Kris Wilson-Yang, co-clerk, spoke for the Camp NeeKauNis committee. The committee submitted a revised mandate to Discipline Review Committee which was read at CYM 2018. Those who have feedback are asked to contact Ruth Pincoe (clerk of Discipline Review Committee) and the Camp NeeKauNis clerks.

The Committee reported on a restructuring exercise that has created a steering committee and sub-committees and more focused roles for committee members, which has implications for Nominating Committee and Monthly Meetings as they consider names to put forward for Camp NeeKauNis Committee.

2018-17: Finance Committee (Report 18) and Treasurer (Report 15)

Ro Fife spoke to the Finance Committee's report. The committee consists of six members as well as several ex-officio members. There is currently at least one opening; the committee is appealing for Monthly Meetings to nominate Friends. The committee is working to improve their presence on the CYM website to make relevant information available to Canadian Friends and potential donors.

Growing pressures on CYM expenses, due to the depletion of one-time funds such as renewal funds, are building. Reserves are currently sufficient, but they are not being replaced. The current donor base is actually contracting.

The Treasurer noted that in 2017 we received a \$250,000 donation and decided to use part of these funds to hire a Yearly Meeting Secretary. There have been planned deficits to use these funds. Our treasurer pointed out that the Yearly Meeting has about 500 active members. Meetings donate about \$130,000; other donations are budgeted at \$72,000. Last year only 185 individuals donated to Yearly Meeting. The Samuel Rogers Memorial Trust also contributes funds. The annual gathering is the largest expense of the year; it usually costs the General Fund about \$45,000 in net expenses. Education & Outreach Committee spends another \$15,000 to \$20,000 to help Friends attend CYM in Session.

For 2019, Finance Committee budgeted an income of \$285,000. Expenses are budgeted at \$424,400. The shortfall is \$139,000. This will leave \$482,600 in the General Fund for fiscal year 2020. The Treasurer continued to describe the budgets of various committees and concluded that at the current rate of expenditures, CYM will run out of funds in 2022. It is imperative that CYM cut expenses and increase revenues in order to survive. She suggested that a knowledgeable small group of people will be needed to help CYM to discern a way forward. The Treasurer recommended that Representative Meeting approve the 2019 budget as submitted by Finance Committee.

Friends raised questions about monitoring committee expenses; the CYM accountant does keep track of individual budgets; some committees with complicated budgets like Publications and Communications have their own budget officer.

Friends have been adapting to changing social and financial conditions for centuries. We need to look to our younger members to help us envision a way forward. Energy, resources and volunteerism from traditional sources have diminished and we question how they can be encouraged in today's context. Developing a clear vision will assist the Contributions Committee in their work.

Friends approved the 2019 budget as proposed by Finance Committee. Further discernment will be needed to help CYM find a way forward to rationalize our structures and priorities. Several Friends volunteered to sit on a working group for this purpose. Friends referred the naming of a working group to the Clerks' Committee.

Friends wish to acknowledge the long and faithful work that Anne-Marie Zilliacus has performed as Yearly Meeting Treasurer. We have not been able to replace her as Treasurer and thus we are embarking on a new path. In part, increased hours for the Yearly Meeting Accountant has made this new path possible.

YAF/YF contributed the following ministry, "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" -- Isaiah 43:19

Announcements and Lunch

2018-18: The afternoon opened with a period of worship. The Clerk read section 3.45 from *Canadian Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice*:

The purpose of our Meetings for Worship for Business is precisely this: we meet not to make decisions, but to build a community of witness – what have we found corporately? The sense of the meeting is not unanimity. I have had the experience of concurring in a sense of the meeting with which I disagreed, knowing it was the sense of the meeting. I have wept, wishing the meeting could go further than it clearly was ready to go, but it clearly was not. But my concurring with the sense of the meeting meant that I accepted my faith community where it was, for it is only in affirming clearly where we are that we can add more on.

(Jan Hoffman, 1988).

Reports continued

2018-19: Personnel Committee (Report 12)

Monica Walters-Field, Personnel Committee clerk, joined the meeting by conference call. The Yearly Meeting Secretary gave a colourful report from the Personnel Committee regarding the proposed CYM Employment and Contracting Structure included in the report. This progress report is designed to inform Representative Meeting of the issues faced by Personnel Committee and CYM's employees. Trustees, in their fiduciary and organizational responsibilities, are now also responsible for the oversight of employment and contracting as they are concerned with Employment Standards Acts compliance for each province.

The current model makes individual committees responsible for employment and contracting and for adherence to various employment standards as applicable in the various provinces.

Many of them feel ill-prepared to meet these requirements. The new model asks the Personnel Committee to be responsible for updating policy and directing personnel matters. Oversight of personnel policy is now the clear responsibility of Trustees.

The active members of the working group are Cameron Fraser as CYM's employee and Monica Walters-Field as clerk of Personnel.

Friends expressed appreciation for the work of this committee and are mindful that staff members and the employing and contracting committees have been consulted in helping to formulate these recommendations. The group is contracting with a human resource consultant to make sure CYM is aligning its practices with professional human resource practice and law. Trustees are grateful for the evolution of our personnel practices and policies and our due diligence has and will improve further as this process continues.

2018-20: Discipline Review Committee (Report 8)

The clerk, Ruth Pincoe, presented this report which contains changes to *Organization and Procedure* (O&P) relating to Naming Committee (6.20) and Program Committee (6.21). To set the context for the committee's work in progress, the report contains an overview of all the items in the pipeline for the committee's work.

Friends approved Second Readings of sections 6.20 (Naming Committee) and 6.21 (Program Committee).

The committee addressed the question of a re-print of *Organization & Procedure*. It was felt that the entire publication is due for a re-write and could be completed much more expeditiously than has been acknowledged previously. In the meantime, a current and up-to-date version of O&P is always available on the CYM website. They suggest that an interim re-print of O&P be abandoned as Friends can access it online. The re-write can begin quickly as soon as the committee is appointed.

Friends approved this course of action.

2018-21: Education and Outreach (Report 13)

The Clerk, Wesley Glebe, outlined a plan to re-organize the committee by creating smaller groups to focus on various aspects of the committee's work. One of these would be an administrative core and others will focus on various aspects of the committee's program work. The committee is still considering how to discern the various categories of work that will align with the interests of committee members.

Friends receive this report with gratitude and endorse the directions suggested in it. Friends also encourage consultation with Nominating Committee for further discernment and Friends are enjoined to make known to their meetings the need for members on this committee.

2018-22: Nominating Committee (Report 21)

The Clerk presented the committee's report. It proposes naming an ad hoc Carbon Auditor Team until 2021 consisting of Nathaniel Knight (Vancouver Island), Adrian Dolling (Vancouver Island), David Shipley (Ottawa) subject to consent, and Maggie Knight (Vancouver Island), with support from Mark Burch (Winnipeg).

Friends approved.

Previously approved for Camp NeeKauNis Committee to 2021

Kris Wilson-Yang (Ottawa)

Wendee Wood (Toronto)

Rachel McQuail (Kitchener Area)

Lisa Stetler (Yonge Street)

Rebecca Ivanoff (Yonge Street)

2018-23: ADCLEFF–Ad hoc Committee for Liaison with Evangelical African Friends (Report 10)

Judith Brown presented the report of this committee, which responded to a call for outreach from African Evangelical Friends who have settled mostly in Quebec. They have begun to set up a larger grouping called United Friends Churches (UFC) / Églises Unis des Amis. David Millar (Montreal MM) has been involved in responding to these requests from the beginning and has built good relations with the various churches and pastors.

The committee did a lot of work this year and traveled to a number of gatherings to bring CYM and UFC Friends together. A Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC) workshop, facilitated by Étienne Paul Mungombe (Montreal Friends Church) and Joseph Anali Kapita (Montreal Friends Church), was shared at St. Lawrence Regional Gathering. Many African immigrants, including African Friends in Quebec, have experienced terrible trauma and are often surviving as the poorest of Canadians in our society.

The committee suggests laying down the ACLEFF while encouraging Friends to continue the work. Ongoing ways to connect might include: offering ongoing translation services, Quaker materials in French, offering HROC workshops in Ontario and Quebec (a currently approved CYM project), and other projects as they arise. The funds that Representative Meeting allocated to support the HROC workshops will be directed through Montreal Monthly Meeting.

Friends noted that Program Committee has discerned that our next Sunderland P Gardner lecture will be given by an African Friends church pastor, Étienne Paul Mungombe (Montreal Friends Church).

Friends agreed to the laying down of this ad hoc committee and hope that our outreach and connections with these Friends will continue and flourish. We encourage interested Friends to take up these opportunities as led with Education and Outreach.

2018-24: Friends General Conference (FGC) Representative (Report 1)

We thank Anne-Marie Zilliacus for her report. We refer the consideration of our membership in FGC to the ad hoc working group referred to in the Finance Committee minute above.

2018-25: Vancouver Monthly Meeting (Report 4)

Eric Kristensen read the letter to Canadian Friends from Vancouver Monthly Meeting articulating their protest of the Trans Mountain Pipeline and the Burnaby Mountain Trans Mountain Tank Farm expansion from an Indigenous rights, ecological and safety perspective. We received this letter, acknowledging that all people share a common ground in that we all need safety and a dependable livelihood. We invite each Meeting to move forward with care and compassion as they feel led.

2018-26: Program Committee (Report 3)

David Cheatley reported and commented on Business Meeting process at CYM. As Friends we agree that we need to work on our discernment process so that we feel we are receiving ministry throughout our Business Meetings. We realize we need frequent reminders and teachings and look again to Education and Outreach and Ministry and Counsel for leadership.

2018-27: Other Business

Friends expressed our deep gratitude to Vancouver Island Monthly Meeting for their wonderful hospitality.

2018-28: Announcements

Publications and Communications Committee would like to make quaker.ca email accounts permanent accounts, rather than merely serve as a forwarding address. There are approximately 125 quaker.ca email accounts, which are running on Gmail's platform.

Changing forwarding addresses and managing password changes have become a burden for the web minders. The committee is encouraging all quaker.ca account holders to migrate to the appropriate web-based Gmail account for their role as soon as they are comfortable. This will allow successors in the role to access all the messages accumulated in the account over time. Please contact pubcomcommittee@quaker.ca for more information.

2018-29: Date and Place of Next Representative Meeting

We propose to host an audio or video conferencing meeting for the purpose of approving the 2020 budget at 11 am (Pacific Time) on November 30, 2019. Committee reports that impact the budget will be due two weeks in advance on Nov 16, and we advise committees to plan their meetings accordingly. We propose a face-to-face Meeting on February 21-22, 2020 in Toronto (pending availability) and otherwise in Ottawa. We ask our CYM secretary to make the arrangements for the electronic meeting.

2018-30: Closing

We closed with silent worship at 6:30 pm.

Reports can be requested from the CYM Office or viewed/downloaded off www.quaker.ca

CANADIAN YEARLY MEETING
of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2018

Ouseley Hanvey Clipsham Deep LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members,

CANADIAN YEARLY MEETING:

Qualified opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Canadian Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) ("the Entity"), which comprise the statements of financial position and fund balances as at December 31, 2018, and the statements of operations and changes in fund balances and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the basis for qualified opinion section of our report, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Entity as at December 31, 2018, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for qualified opinion

In common with many not-for-profit organizations, the Entity derives revenue from donations, the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Entity. Therefore, we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to donation revenue, net revenue for the year, and cash flows from operations for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017, current assets as at December 31, 2018 and 2017, and net assets as at January 1 and December 31 for both the 2018 and 2017 years. Our audit opinion on the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2017 was modified accordingly because of the possible effects of this limitation in scope.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

Responsibilities of management and those charged with governance for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity, or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in

accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

205 Catnordine Street, Suite 200 Ottawa, ON K2P 1C3 • T 613 562 2010 • F 613 562 2012 • www.vji.ohod.ca

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

OHCD LLP.

OUSELEY HANVEY CLIPSHAM DEEP LLP

Licensed Public Accountants

Ottawa, Ontario

April 27, 2019

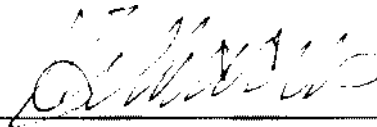
CANADIAN YEARLY MEETING

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2018

	2018	2017
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 442,503	\$ 385,374
Short-term investments (note 3)	655,549	739,598
Accounts receivable	27,529	46,692
Inventory	9,345	10,345
Prepaid expense	613	10,500
	1,135,539	1,192,509
CAPITAL ASSETS (notes 2(d), 5)	400,772	410,416
INVESTMENTS (note 4)	1,648,905	1,870,405
	\$ 3,185,216	\$ 3,473,330
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$ 25,227	\$ 23,609
Owed to other bodies	4,293	5,527
Deferred revenue (note 6)	43,898	37,548
	73,418	66,684
FUND BALANCES		
Canadian Yearly Meeting Funds	937,617	998,404
Camp NeeKauNis Funds	108,435	106,313
Education and Outreach (HMAC) Funds	122,544	161,995
Other Canadian Yearly Meeting Funds	1,542,430	1,729,518
Invested in Capital Assets	400,772	410,416
	3,111,798	3,406,646
	\$ 3,185,216	\$ 3,473,330

Approved on behalf of Canadian
Yearly Meeting:



Friend



Friend

CANADIAN YEARLY MEETING

STATEMENT OF FUND BALANCES AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2018

	2018		2017	
	Available for Program	Invested	Total Fund Balance	Total Fund Balance
CANADIAN YEARLY MEETING FUNDS				
Food Co-op Fund	(647)	\$	\$ 649,609	\$ 711,696
Organization & Procedure Fund	1,870		(647)	(647)
Records Committee Fund			1,870	1,870
QEAN Fund	661			(1,779)
Canadian Young Friend	908		661	661
Sunderland P. Gardner Lecture Fund	4,674	25,605	908	908
Travel Capital Fund		254,937	30,279	30,758
			254,937	254,937
	657,075	280,542	937,617	998,404
CAMP NEEKAUNIS FUNDS				
General Fund	53,796		53,796	51,391
Bursary Fund	(1,019)	16,052	14,033	14,316
I. King Fund		15,820	15,820	15,820
Generations Fund	24,786		24,786	24,786
	77,563	30,872	108,435	106,313
EDUCATION AND OUTREACH (HMAC) AND PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS FUNDS				
General Fund	9,517		9,517	25,397
Quaker Renewal Fund	42,136		42,136	42,750
Pendle Hill Scholarship Fund	1,511	16,409	17,920	17,287
Quaker Studies Fund	3,208	39,197	42,405	44,927
Dorothy Muma Memorial Bursary Fund	1,500		1,500	1,000
Publications and Communications	9,066		9,066	30,634
	66,938	55,606	122,544	161,995
OTHER CANADIAN YEARLY MEETING FUNDS				
Trustees Interest Income Fund	59,710		59,710	263,542
Archives Trust Fund	7,962	28,981	36,943	35,701
Albert S. Rogers Fund	73,234	206,157	279,391	273,139
Canadian Friends' Foreign Mission Board	21,609	80,136	101,745	98,151
Hay Bay Cemetery Fund	(434)	4,206	3,772	4,073
Joseph P. Rogers Fund	81,604	116,710	198,314	191,307
Meetinghouse Fund	287	680,309	680,596	680,596
Pickering Cemetery Fund	6,178	29,859	36,037	36,329
Sarah E. Richardson Fund	72,493	48,130	120,623	117,150
Yonge Street Cemetery Fund	(1,839)	27,138	25,299	29,530
	320,804	1,221,626	1,542,430	1,729,518
INVESTED IN CAPITAL ASSETS	400,772		400,772	410,416
	1,523,152 \$	1,588,646 \$	3,111,798 \$	3,406,646

CANADIAN YEARLY MEETING

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018

	2018	2017
REVENUE (schedules)		
Canadian Yearly Meeting Funds	\$ 341,582	238,366
Camp NeeKauNis Funds	73,482	102,624
Education and Outreach (HMAC) and Publications & Communication Funds	43,289	40,597
Other Canadian Yearly Meeting Funds	(150,414)	170,493
	307,939	552,080
EXPENSE (schedules)		
Canadian Yearly Meeting Funds	427,294	249,477
Camp NeeKauNis Funds	81,005	88,522
Education and Outreach (HMAC) and Publications & Communication Funds	82,740	40,586
Other Canadian Yearly Meeting Funds	11,748	2,448
	602,787	381,033
Net revenue (expense) for the year	(294,848)	171,047
Fund balances, beginning of year	3,406,646	3,235,599
Fund balances, end of year	3,111,798	3,406,646

CANADIAN YEARLY MEETING

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018

	2018	2017
CASH PROVIDED BY (USED FOR)		
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net revenue (expense) for the year	\$ (294,848)	\$ 171,047
Item not affecting cash:		
Amortization of capital assets	9,644	9,644
Change in non-cash working capital items:		
Accounts receivable	19,163	(28,884)
Prepaid expenses	9,887	625
Inventory	1,000	
Accounts payable	1,618	10,938
Deferred revenue	6,350	3,348
Amounts owed to other bodies	(1,234)	(475)
	(248,420)	166,243
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Increase (decrease) in investments	305,549	(738,011)
CHANGE IN CASH FOR THE YEAR	57,129	(571,768)
Cash beginning of the year	385,374	957,142
CASH END OF YEAR	\$ 442,503	385,374

CANADIAN YEARLY MEETING

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2018

1. NATURE OF OPERATIONS

The Canadian Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) is an Alternative Christianity which emphasizes the personal experience of God in one's life. The Religious Society is a charitable organization and is not subject to income tax.

These financial statements report on the activities of Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM). They do not include Canadian Friends' Service Committee (CFSC) which is a Committee of Canadian Yearly Meeting and operates as a separate charitable organization. The financial position and operations of CFSC are summarized in note 6.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and include the following significant accounting policies:

(a). Fund Accounting

CANADIAN YEARLY MEETING FUNDS

General Fund

The general fund accounts for revenue and expenses for general operations of CYM.

Food Co-op Fund

This fund is for the food co-op at the annual yearly meeting gathering.

Organization & Procedure Fund

The purpose of this fund is to cover the printing costs of the book "Organisation & Procedure"

Records Committee Fund

The capital and income of this fund is available for the operating expenses of the Records Committee.

QEAN Fund

The purpose of this fund is to receive donations and record expenses for CYM's work on environmental issues.

Canadian Young Friend

This fund accumulates amounts for Young Friends.

Sunderland P. Gardner Lecture Fund

This fund is used to offset the costs of the S.P.G. Lecturer at the annual gathering and, in part, the cost of publishing the Lecture as a pamphlet.

Travel Capital Fund

This fund accumulates capital, the income from which is to be spent on travel.

CAMP NEEKAUNIS FUNDS

General Fund

This fund records the general income and expenses of Camp NeeKauNis.

Bursary Fund

The purpose of this fund is to provide financial assistance to campers who are unable to pay the full camp fees.

CANADIAN YEARLY MEETING

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2018

(a). Fund Accounting (continued)

Memorial Fund

This fund receives donations "in memory" of someone as recognized by Camp NeeKauNis committee.

I. King Fund

Income from this fund is disbursed on recommendation of Camp NeeKauNis Committee.

Generations Fund

The purpose of this fund is to record revenue and expenses of capital projects at Camp NeeKauNis.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH (HMAC) FUNDS

General Fund

The purpose of this fund is to record general revenue and expenses of Education and Outreach (HMAC).

Quaker Renewal Fund

The purpose of this fund is to record the revenue and expenses for work to expand and renew the work of CYM.

Publications and Communications Fund

The purpose of this fund is to record revenue and expenses for printed and Internet publications and communications of CYM.

Pendle Hill Scholarship Fund

The purpose of this fund is to cover the costs for one person per year to go to Pendle Hill for one week.

Quaker Studies Fund

This fund is to be used for Friends' education at Friends' institutions.

Dorothy Muma Memorial Bursary Fund

The Education and Outreach Committee offers a bursary, funded by the Samuel Rogers Memorial Trust, to recognize Dorothy Muma's long contribution to Friends and Canadian Yearly Meeting. The award must go to an Ontario resident or support a spiritual leading in Ontario.

OTHER CANADIAN YEARLY MEETING FUNDS

Archives Trust Fund

The purpose of this fund is to support special projects and purchases for the Archives, outside of annual operating costs.

Albert S. Rogers Fund

This fund was bequeathed by A.S. Rogers in 1932. Income from this fund is disbursed at the discretion of CYM

Trustees.

Canadian Friends' Foreign Mission Board Fund

Part of the original balance of this fund was from the sale of the Botsford Street Meetinghouse. Interest is disbursed by the CFFMB taking into account the concerns of the donors.

CANADIAN YEARLY MEETING

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2018

(a). Fund Accounting (continued)

Hay Bay Cemetery Fund

This fund was established by relatives of those buried in the Quaker Cemetery at Hay Bay, Adolphustown, Ontario for the upkeep of the cemetery.

Joseph P. Rogers Fund

This fund is for the care of Friends who need assistance, who have been of service to Friends.

Meetinghouse Fund

This fund is set aside for repairs, additions or the purchase of Meetinghouses.

Pickering Cemetery Fund

This fund was established for the upkeep of the cemetery.

Sarah E. Richardson Fund

This fund is set up for use of Friends traveling in the Ministry in Canada.

Yonge Street Cemetery Fund

This fund was set up by bequest for the care of the Friends Cemetery, Newmarket, Ontario.

(b). Fund Balances

All fund balances except for Joseph P. Rogers Fund are internally restricted. Amounts that are shown as "invested" have been invested by the Board of Trustees with approval of CYM. The Joseph P. Rogers Fund was established by a bequest and the use of this fund is externally restricted.

(c). Revenue Recognition

Bequests and donations are recorded as revenue in the year in which they are received. Investment income is recognized as income in each fund based on the fund's proportionate share of total fund balance reserved for investment.

(d). Capital Assets

In 2005 the Society began to record the purchase of significant capital assets at cost. Previously, all capital assets were charged to expense at the time of purchase. \$210,678 of the capital balance represents land that was purchased for Camp NeeKauNis. \$16,500 represents Quaker Archive material, the majority of which was donated to CYM in 2007. In addition \$192,882 relates to a camp wash house constructed in 2016 fiscal year and put into use in 2017.

Capital assets are initially recorded at cost. Wash house amortization is recorded on a straight line basis over the estimated useful life of 20 years.

(e). Financial Instruments

Investments in equity instruments quoted in an active market are initially recognized at fair value and are subsequently measured at the year-end fair value. Other financial instruments are initially recognized at fair value and are subsequently measured at cost, amortized cost or cost less appropriate allowances for impairment.

CANADIAN YEARLY MEETING

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2018

(f). Use of Estimates

The preparation of these financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. These estimates are reviewed annually and as adjustments become necessary, they are recorded in the financial statements in the period in which they become known.

3. SHORT TERM INVESTMENTS

Short term investments consist of G1C's earning interest at annual rates from 0.6% to 2.43% per year, maturing between June and November 2019.

4. INVESTMENTS

	2018	2017
Preferred Shares, measured at fair value	\$ 728,099	\$ 786,220
Equities, measured at fair value	899,119	973,339
BNS Investment Savings Account	21,687	110,846
	\$ 1,648,905	\$ 1,870,405

The Society is exposed to interest rate and market risk through investments held.

5. CAPITAL ASSETS

D. CAPITAL ASSETS					
			2018		2017
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net		Net
Camp property	\$ 210,678	\$	210,678	\$	210,678
	Quaker archives	16,500	16,500		16,500
420,060	\$	19,288	\$	400,772	\$ 410,416

0.DEFERRED REVENUE

Deferred revenue consists of funding received for the next fiscal period.

	2018	2017
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 37,548	\$ 34,200

Less: amount recognized as revenue in the year	(37,548)	(34,200)
Plus: amount received related to the following year	43,898	37,543
<hr/>		
Balance, end of year	43,898 \$	37,548
<hr/>		

CANADIAN YEARLY MEETING

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2018

7. RELATED ENTITY

Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC) is a committee of Canadian Yearly Meeting. CFSC is the peace, social justice and international development arm of CYM and is a separately incorporated registered charity. The year end of CFSC is March 31 and the financial statements are audited by another firm of Chartered Professional Accountants and are summarized below.

		March 31	March 31
Total assets	\$	3,633,418	\$ 3,362,888
Total liabilities		134,650	122,993
Net assets	\$	3,498,768	\$ 3,239,895
Total revenue		857,000	\$ 913,023
Total expense		598,127	457,375
Net revenue for the year		258,873	\$ 455,648

8. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Financial instruments of the Society consist of cash, short term investments, accounts receivable, investments, accounts payable and owed to other bodies. Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the Society is not exposed to significant interest rate, currency, credit, liquidity or market risks arising from its financial instruments and the carrying amount of the financial instruments approximate their fair value.

CANADIAN YEARLY MEETING

SCHEDULE OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE

CANADIAN YEARLY MEETING FUNDS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018

	2018	2017
REVENUE		
CYM General Fund		
Monthly Meeting contributions	\$ 135,478	\$ 135,940
Donations	82,538	79,948
Annual gathering	89,411	
Interest and other	17,477	5,542
Interest on Travel Capital Fund	9,337	8,042
Donations designated to other Quaker organizations	4,854	4,954
Sale of Faith & Practice Books	994	1,502
	340,089	235,928
Records Committee Fund		1,477
Sunderland P. Gardner Lecture Fund	1,493	961
TOTAL REVENUE	341,582	238,366
EXPENSE		
CYM General Fund		
Yearly meeting committees	6,076	7,035
Annual gathering	132,147	2,651
Representative meeting	12,726	17,906
Yearly meeting office	244,969	174,777
Travel and lodging -committee	12,357	22,885
Travel and lodging -other	4,958	4,859
Donations to other bodies	5,850	5,925
Cost of sales - books	1,014	
Designated donations to other Quaker Organizations	5,225	5,194
	425,322	241,232
Records Committee Fund		7,579
Sunderland P. Gardner Lecture Fund	1,973	666
TOTAL EXPENSE	427,295	249,477
Net revenue (expense)	(85,713)	(11,111)
Transfers in from other funds	23,147	21,469
Transfers out to other funds	1,779	
CHANGE IN CANADIAN YEARLY MEETING FUNDS	(60,787)	10,358
Fund balances, beginning of year	998,404	988,046
Fund balances, end of year	937,617	\$ 998,404

CANADIAN YEARLY MEETING

SCHEDULE OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE

CAMP NEEKAUNIS FUNDS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018

	2018	2017
REVENUE		
Camp NeeKauNis General Fund		
Fees	46,976 \$	44,272
Donations	8,150	56,226
Other income	17,253	1,144
	<u>72,379</u>	<u>101,642</u>
Bursary Fund	524	483
I Kind Fund	579	499
	<u>73,482</u>	<u>102,624</u>
EXPENSE		
Camp NeeKauNis General Fund	81,005	88,504
Generations Fund		18
	<u>81,005</u>	<u>88,522</u>
Net revenue (expense)	(7,523)	14,102
Transfers in from other funds	10,748	103,311
Transfers to other funds	(1,103)	(93,667)
CHANGE IN CAMP NEEKAUNIS FUND BALANCES	2,122	23,746
Fund balances, beginning_ofyear	106,313	82,567
Fund balances, end of year	\$ 108,435	\$ 106,313

CANADIAN YEARLY MEETING

SCHEDULE OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE **EDUCATION AND OUTREACH FUNDS AND PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS** FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018

	2018	2017
REVENUE		
Education and Outreach (HMAC) General Fund	\$	\$ 10,000
Pendle Hill Scholarship Fund	633	569
Quaker Renewal Fund	19,485	995
Quaker Studies Fund	1,645	500
	21,026	1,374
	43,289	40,597
EXPENSE		
Education and Outreach (HMAC) General Fund	15,878	6,944
Pendle Hill Scholarship Fund		1,306
Quaker Renewal Fund	20,100	9,633
Quaker Studies Fund	4,167	
Publications & Communications	42,595	8,964
Canadian Friend Fund		13,739
	82,740	40,586
Net revenue (expense)	(39,451)	11
Transfers in from other funds		4,492
Transfers to other funds		(4,492)
CHANGE IN EDUCATION AND OUTREACH (HMAC) AND PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS FUND BALANCES		
Fund balances, beginning of year	(39,451)	11
	161,995	161,984
Fund balances, end of year	\$ 122,544	\$ 161,995

CANADIAN YEARLY MEETING

SCHEDULE OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE

OTHER CANADIAN YEARLY MEETING FUNDS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018

	2018	2017
REVENUE		
Trustees investment income (loss)	\$ (203,828)	\$ 123,690
Archives Trust Fund	1,242	5,512
Albert S. Rogers Fund	9,508	4,837
Canadian Friends' Foreign Mission Board Fund	3,595	3,001
Hay Bay Cemetery Fund	149	141
Joseph P. Rogers Fund	7,006	5,850
Meetinghouse Fund	24,926	21,469
Pickering Cemetery Fund	1,551	1,496
Sarah E. Richardson Fund	4,290	3,582
Yonge Street Cemetery Fund	1,147	915
	050,4141	170,493
EXPENSE		
Albert S. Rogers Fund	3,259	49
Hay Bay Cemetery Fund	450	553
Sarah E. Richardson Fund	818	
Pickering Cemetery Fund	1,843	1,453
Yonge Street Cemetery Fund	5,378	393
	11,748	2,448
Net revenue (expense)	(162,162)	168,045
Transfers out to other funds	(24,926)	(21,469)
CHANGE IN OTHER CYM FUND BALANCES	(187,088)	146,576
Fund balances, beginning of year	1,729,518	1,582,942
Fund balances, end of year	\$ 1,542,430	\$ 1,729,518

MEMORIAL MINUTES

BARR, RACHEL (Nee Clark)

22 March 1953 – 14 December 2018

The youngest of four daughters of the late John and Frances Clark, Rachel, a birthright Quaker, was born in Worcester, England on March 22, 1953. Rachel Mary Barr passed away peacefully in her sleep at the Vernon Jubilee Hospital on Friday, December 14, 2018 at the age of sixty-five. Rachel is survived by her husband of four years Ken, sisters Wendy (Hans) Diehl, Di Burgess, and Jane (Brian) Burge, and brother-in-law Alan (Barb) Barr. Her cousins, nephews and nieces, great-nephews and great-nieces, and friends will also fondly remember Rachel.

She attended Sibford, a Quaker boarding school in Oxfordshire. Following graduation from Sibford School and business studies at Worcester Technical College, Rachel worked in the hospitality industry before immigrating to Canada in 1976. In Vancouver, she worked as a travel agent for twenty-two years and later as a coordinator of volunteers before retiring in 2014. Rachel and Ken moved from the Lower Mainland to Armstrong in 2016. Rachel enjoyed her new community and soon became active in several clubs and organizations there. She loved to travel, plan and organize trips and events, and be with people. Her strength of character and positive outlook, even in the face of adversity, brightened the lives of everyone who knew her.

Rachel could trace her Quaker ancestry back through many generations. It was part of who she was. Rachel lived out many of the Quaker testimonies in her life. One of them was honesty. She had a way of telling the truth so that you knew exactly what she meant without feeling hurt. Rachel was a person you could depend on.

Rachel Barr was a member of Interior BC Monthly Meeting and a member of our Ministry and Counsel Committee. There is an emptiness in our Meeting now that Rachel is gone. She will be missed by all of us to whom she brought blessings of Light and laughter. We will miss her warm smile and her calm way of dealing with whatever life sent her way.

BLYTHE, HILARY

1935 - 2018

Hilary Blythe moved from Ottawa to Saint Stephen, New Brunswick during the last few years of her life. She transferred her membership in the Religious Society of Friends from Ottawa Monthly Meeting to New Brunswick Monthly Meeting in 2009. She was able to connect with Friends in Saint Andrews, Saint John and Houlton- Woodstock even though health concerns and distance made it difficult for her to participate more actively with Friends. During her time at Bobby's Hospice in Saint John, Friends were able to visit and be a supportive presence. We are grateful for the time we were able to have together with her.

Raised in South Africa, Hilary worked as an x-ray technician before she married and had children and became a Canadian citizen in 1968. She was committed to lifelong learning and volunteered for years at her childrens' schools, and took courses reflecting a wide range of interests including electrical wiring, woodworking, accounting, and becoming a legal secretary. She also earned an Honours Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language and volunteered as a Language Instructor with the Newcomers to Canada program in Ottawa,

assisting many immigrants with their language skills and by sharing her personal experiences as an immigrant. She continued tutoring in St Stephen.

Until her retirement, she worked as an Administrative Assistant at the Department of Agriculture in Ottawa. In 1998 she moved to New Brunswick where she continued to enjoy gardening, reading, painting, and bird watching. Hilary liked striking up conversations wherever she went, exhibiting a very engaging and sometimes combative personality. She will be remembered for her wit and wisdom and lifelong commitment to living with integrity and concern for others.

CLARIDGE, PATRICIA JEAN
5 May 1940 - 12 January 2019

Yonge Street Friends, family and friends gathered on 9 February 2019 to celebrate the Grace of God in the life of Jean Claridge.

Jean was introduced to Quakers by a dear friend and member of Yonge Street meeting, Dan Poisson. Our practice of silent worship spoke to her heart and she faithfully attended worship, and participated in the life of the meeting for 14 years. We welcomed her into membership with the Religious Society of Friends in 2018.

Jean's early religious formation came through her parents whose background was a combination of Baptist and Roman Catholic teachings. She became familiar with Judaism through friends. Moral and ethical values defined Jean's life from an early age and guided her choices through challenging times. She was a curious seeker who practiced meditation for many years.

Jean lived a life filled with unique experiences. She shared her gift of music and enjoyed an accomplished career as a vocalist. Her musical path led her to work in a number of rewarding roles within the Canadian television industry. Jean responded to a personal drive to express herself through painting and photography. She was grateful for our brilliant world.

Jean's beloved daughter Michele described her mother as one who communicated in the languages of music and colour.

Jean connected with people on a deep level. She sensed the guidance of an inner spirit. She spoke of visions. Time spent worshipping at the Yonge Street meeting house provided solace and prompted a level of worry for the future of the Religious Society of Friends. She felt that a rich Quaker tradition was disappearing by not being passed on to the next generation.

Jean's health launched into decline when she was diagnosed with cancer for a second time. She courageously faced all the medical interventions necessary for the possibility of a cure. She shouldered pain with positivity. Jean was compelled to write about the revelations and understanding that evolved within her soul. She was compelled to share the experiences that confirmed a profound faith.

While her body was weakening she focussed on love. She spoke of a transformation to the grace of acceptance and gratitude. Her final days were spent under the care of Michele and the Margaret Bahen Hospice.

The sadness of goodbye was as real as the comfort of knowing that Jean was at peace. She included two verses from 1st Corinthians on the final page of her memoir:

Chapter 15:44 We are sown a natural body and raised a spiritual body.

Chapter 15:54 Death has been swallowed up in victory.

CRESSMAN, DENNIS

27 October 1946 – 8 August 2018

Dennis was born in Kitchener Ontario in 1946. Dennis came from a Mennonite background, obtaining a Master's degree in Clinical Psychology and Theological Studies at the Colgate Rochester Divinity School, and working as a Mennonite pastor for many years. He attended the Trappist Abbey of the Genesee, and studied with Tom Brown, who taught Nature Awareness and Native Spirituality. These influences, as well as Quaker writers such as George Fox, John Woolman, and Parker Palmer, guided Dennis' spiritual path.

Dennis joined Calgary Monthly Meeting in 1997 after attending for many years. Over many years, Dennis actively supported the meeting as Treasurer, Recording Clerk, Clerk of Ministry & Counsel. He set up an email system which he used to keep Members and Attenders in touch and informed. Dennis participated in many Clearness Committees, and Friends remember his insightful and penetrating questions.

Dennis' interest in people and wellness led him to volunteer with Telecare, a 24-hour crisis line, and later with Agapé Hospice as a volunteer companion.

Dennis began offering Wilderness Retreats, with the support of his previous partner, Jan Clarson, on a property on the banks of the Little Red Deer River, affectionately known as "The Land". Although influenced by native teachings, his approach to vision quests was complex and nuanced, guiding Quaker participants to think of the four-day solo retreat as an extended Meeting for Worship with the land.

Eventually, he purchased The Land, and he and his partner Janet Martin moved there and built a light-filled, off the grid, circular home with a view of the river. Dennis and Janet hosted an annual Meeting and Quaker potluck on the Land each autumn, which Friends happily anticipated. Dennis and Janet often loaned out a small cabin to those seeking solitude amidst the trees and birds.

After a great deal of soul-searching and conversations and coming to a different understanding of fundamental tenets of spiritual faith and how this was given expression, Dennis, after more than 30 years of attending Calgary Monthly Meeting, terminated his membership. Shortly after that, he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and died at home three months later, cared for by his partner Janet and his family. At his request, a Memorial Meeting in the manner of Friends was held at Dennis' and Janet's home on "The Land".

Dennis Cressman was an important and active member of Calgary Monthly Meeting, and we will miss him. One of his cherished quotes by George Fox was:

“Be still and silent from thine own wisdom, wit, craft, subtlety or policy that would arise in thee, but stand single to the Lord, without any end to thyself.”

Re-written by Rex Ambler as:

“Be still and silent in your own mind, giving up any wise, clever or subtle thoughts of your own that may arise in your mind, and be open and honest to the Lord, without any thought of what you yourself may get out of it.”

DERIDDER, GHISLAIN

Ghislain Deridder was born in Heikruis, Flanders, Belgium, on 2 August 1950, the youngest of seven children. Throughout his life he kept in touch and was of support to his family. In high school he studied modern languages and economics, and at college in Brussels he augmented an early interest in science and mathematics with an additional year of mathematics. He completed a degree in physics in the Free University of Brussels (Vrije Universiteit Brussel), specialising in astrophysics, and laid the foundation of his teaching career by completing a high school education certificate before taking up a research fellowship in solar physics at the University of Utrecht, in Holland. He returned to the physics department at the Free University of Brussels as a teaching assistant, and taught physics to medical students. He also undertook research in theoretical astrophysics and spent a further year as a research fellow at the Astrophysics Institute.

In describing Ghislain, Hermann Hensberge, his friend since their undergraduate days, referred a quotation of Madison Sarratt: “there are many good people who cannot pass an examination in trigonometry, but no good people who cannot pass an examination in honesty.” But Ghislain would pass both. Hermann described Ghislain as a true renaissance spirit, a *homo universalis*. His broad interests extended beyond his research. He kept up to date with science as a whole. To engage his students, he plunged into the basics of medicine in order to transform the standard physics exercises.

Quality needs time, but the University unfortunately did not grant additional time for Ghislain to complete his PhD. Disappointed by the acceptance of partially analysed and prematurely published data of his colleagues, Ghislain took on the “honorable project” of teaching college-level physics, chemistry, and mathematics in Gabon. Ghislain and Hermann continued their informal collaboration on peculiar A-type stars with *A Peculiar Newsletter* – a project that exemplified his critical thinking, always with a helping hand. “It is the results that matter, not the time spent to reach them.”

Ghislain had been educated in Catholic schools, but left the Roman Catholic Church at age sixteen. He discovered the Religious Society of Friends around 1980 and began to attend Meeting for Worship in Brussels. He met Kirsten Romaine Jones when Yearly Meeting was held in Antwerp. Kirsten returned to the United States, and later visited Ghislain in Gabon. They went to England, and were married in Crawley on 12 June 1986, witnessed by colleagues at the Waldorf High School where Ghislain had taught science and mathematics. Ghislain and Kirsten applied to Toronto Monthly Meeting, and soon arrived to serve as Resident Friends.

Ghislain spent 1987 as a “person Friday” in Friends House, where he also contributed computer skills, helping with word processing and database management. He took a course at the University of Toronto in French as a Second Language, and began teaching high school science and mathematics for the Toronto District School Board. He is still remembered at Northern Secondary School for his four years of exemplary work plans, but the ensuing strain of full-time teaching led to a transition to supply teaching. Fluent in Dutch, English, French, some German, and several computer languages, Ghislain taught high school science and mathematics – with his knowledge and dedication he was a highly sought after supply teacher, and was warmly welcomed by both staff and students. Meanwhile, he continued his education in computer science at George Brown College and at Ryerson, where he earned a degree and was recognised with an award for academic excellence. His teaching career continued until the summer of 2018, when it was halted by his final illness – brain cancer.

Ghislain and Kirsten spent five summers as Resident Friends at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, near Birmingham, England. In Toronto, Ghislain participated in the life of Friends House, helping wherever he could. He liked to be practical but did not like to be the centre of attention. He valued the Quaker Testimonies, particularly the Peace Testimony, and gradually became more engaged in the life of Toronto Meeting, becoming fully at home with Friends. He expressed a wish to apply for membership, but his illness prevented him from pursuing this wish.

Ghislain made a point of attending Meeting for Worship at Friends House and also with the West End Worship Group. His contributions to Toronto Monthly Meeting include his service on the Statistics and Nominating Committees. His participation in Toronto Friends Sponsoring Refugees was characterised by incisive questions, thoughtful attention to detail, quiet helpfulness with tasks that needed to be done, and a clear commitment to supporting families when the Committee was unsure of its capacity.

A gentleman of the old school, Ghislain is remembered for his quiet perseverance and generous spirit, his modesty and kindness. He was principled. He lived according to his values, and would clearly express decisions that he had reached. He gave generously of his time and his practical skills and knowledge. He avoided acknowledgement, remaining out of the focus of attention, but was always present for service. He quietly ensured, for example, that the tea table after Meeting for Worship was supplied with cookies and gluten-free treats. He felt at home in his community with his hands busy, epitomised by his familiar place in the kitchen washing the dishes.

Hermann Hensberge observed that in every aspect of his life – including science – Ghislain was guided by honesty, integrity, and a respect for critical thinking. He stepped aside from striving for a career at the cost of these principles. “I presume,” Hermann concluded, “that this insight into the relativity of our own stay on earth helped him to bear the challenges he encountered in life, and especially in the final stages. Undoubtedly, the world was better with than without him.”

SCHMITZ-HERTZBERG, KATHLEEN **16 February 1916 – 29 January 2019**

Kathleen Margaret Schmitz-Hertzberg (née Brookhouse), known as Kathleen Hertzberg, was a woman of deep faith and passionate commitment. The daily life she lived was inseparable from the Christian faith she professed following the practices of the Society of Friends.

“Do you know your Quaker history?”
“Have you read George Fox’s testimony?”
“Have you written your memoirs?”

These questions – along with quotations of poetry (particularly Keats and Shelley) and passages from the Bible – peppered her frequent vocal ministry at Meeting for Worship, which she rarely missed up to the 100th year of her life. To each of these questions, Kathleen could answer a confident “Yes.”

Kathleen lived close to the teachings of George Fox and the early Friends, expressing her Quaker values as a Christian. She was a supporter of the New Foundation Fellowship and, with her husband Fritz, organized seminars at Camp NeeKauNis from 1978 to 1987. She loved to engage in earnest discussions of Quaker and Christian principles and their pragmatic significance for society today.

Born on 16 February 1916, Kathleen was raised in Britain, along with her three siblings. Their parents attended Meeting for Worship and became members around 1928. Kathleen was a young activist from the beginning, putting her strong convictions into practical action. After attending Stafford Meeting for some time as a Young Friend, at age nineteen, she became a member of the Society of Friends (Quakers) in the Stafford Meeting, England, in July 1935. During her studies at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre she deepened both her intellectual understanding and her lived understanding of her faith.

She was a committed pacifist, but she was not passive! She travelled to Germany in 1938–39 to improve her German, meet German Quakers, and attend Germany Yearly Meeting. There she met the love of her life, a young German medical student named Fritz Schmitz-Hertzberg. They were soon engaged, but the war intervened. Kathleen returned to England where she joined the Friends Ambulance Unit and provided much needed aid during the Blitz. She served on the Friends War Victim’s Relief Committee of London Yearly Meeting working as a social worker with mainly German speaking refugees.

Meanwhile, Fritz, having finished his medical degree, was drafted into the German army as a doctor and sent to the Eastern Front. In 1945 he was captured by the Russians and spent nearly five years as a prisoner of war. Through these long years Kathleen and Fritz communicated with each other, persistently and patiently sending letters first through the Geneva Friends Meeting and later, when Fritz was a POW, via the Red Crescent. During the early postwar years, In 1947 Kathleen travelled to Germany with William Hughes to reconnect with German Quakers, and they also attended the Nuremberg trials. She was also involved with relief and reconciliation work in Berlin in 1948–49.

Soon after Fritz was finally released, after a decade apart, Fritz and Kathleen were married in England, after the manner of Friends. In 1952, they immigrated to Canada with their young daughter Evelyn. Their two sons, Andreas and Martin, were born in Toronto. Fritz earned his credentials to practice medicine in Canada, and established a home and offices in Dunbarton (now part of Pickering), Ontario.

During her early years in Pickering, Kathleen set out to make a difference in her new home community. In the rapidly growing suburbs of Ajax-Pickering she helped to establish networks and agencies that provided much-needed practical and compassionate social services:

Community Care, Meals on Wheels, the Social Development Council, and the Red Cross. In 1977 Kathleen was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal in recognition of her community work.

Quakers testify to the inner truth they hold dear through their actions and their public activities. Kathleen began working in the Canadian Friends Service Committee office, and later served as chair of the committee, helping immigrants traumatized by the effects of war, loss, and displacement, and during the Vietnam War, sending medical supplies to both sides of the conflict. Thus she bore witness to the principle of Friends' Peace Testimony while helping to provide tangible assistance to those caught in the tragedy of conflict.

Through her years in Toronto Monthly Meeting Kathleen served on numerous committees and took on many leadership roles. Together with Grace Pincoe, she founded the Canadian Friends Historical Association. She also attended every gathering of Canadian Yearly Meeting from 1953 to 2009 – a total of 56 consecutive years.

Kathleen attended Meeting for Worship and frequently offered vocal ministry. She often spoke about love as a divine principle. She was forthright in encouraging attenders to "keep coming back, because every Meeting is different!" At the rise of a Meeting in 2014, she said, with emphasis, "We must welcome new attenders for they have great visions of the future and we cannot enact the Kingdom of God without them." On her 98th birthday, when those gathered for Meeting sang "Happy Birthday," she responded, "Time marches on!"

In serving the Light of Christ that dwells in everyone, Kathleen was keenly ecumenical. She was a leading member of the Canadian Council of Churches, where, for many years, she represented Canadian Friends, and she was also a frequent public speaker on Quaker concerns at ecumenical and interfaith events.

In the tradition of many early Quakers, she was insistent that people record their memoirs, both as personal testimony and reflection on their lives and as a means of passing wisdom across generations. When invited to give the 2002 Sunderland P. Gardiner Lecture at Canadian Yearly Meeting, the title she chose aptly summarized her approach to life: *Doing the Work, Finding the Meaning*.

Kathleen Hertzberg was a tender and loving Friend. She lived fully, and sought to put the "hands and feet" on the love of God for all people. She died peacefully, just three weeks shy of her 103rd birthday, on 29 January 2019, deeply convinced in her faith in the Light that enlightens all. Her own ministry concludes this testimony.

"God is Love. Our greatest challenge is to Love."

PETERSON, BETTY FARBER

November, 1917 - February, 2018

Member of Halifax Monthly Meeting

Born in the midst of WWI in Reading, Pennsylvania, Betty's young life was marked not only by that war but also by the Great Depression. She knew poverty first-hand in her own family but also witnessed what it did to the society around her.

She found refuge and joy in music. In 1939 she graduated from the College of Fine Arts at Syracuse University, having already performed widely in high school and university groups on radio and the stage. After graduation she taught music, both classical and folk, in classrooms ranging from kindergarten through high school and won honours conducting many school, college, and church choirs.

In 1939 she married Gunnar Arthur Peterson whose interests in skiing, climbing, and canoeing complemented Betty's own love of nature. During WWII, Gunnar was a Conscientious Objector and they were separated for periods of time while he performed his service duties in that capacity.

During one of these periods, Betty gave birth to Larry Lars and then both she and the baby joined Gunnar in Pownal, Maine, where he was assigned to work at The State School for the Developmentally Disabled. They lived in a small cabin in the woods with a couple of goats. Betty later remembered this period as a testing ground both for the family and the goats.

As the war ended, news of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the disclosure of the death camps in Europe shocked the couple. They decided to devote their lives to peace and social justice work.

In 1946, their daughter Lisl Ann was born. At this time, the family lived in Connecticut and New York State. In 1949, Gunnar and Betty became Quakers and worked with the American Friends Service Committee. In that same year, however, their son Larry died from complications of measles. Their personal grief motivated them to work even harder for peace and social justice and Betty participated in early sit-ins and civil rights protests with Bayard Rustin, Jim Farmer and other well-known leaders at that time.

By the early 1950s, the family was living in Chicago where, in 1952, Eric Knute was born. While raising her family Betty also continued her activist work. She served as trainer and camp director in professional Girl Scouting and was a founder of the South Suburban Human Rights Organization. For many years she was a community educator and organizer for voting equality with the League of Women Voters. Under the War on Poverty she taught English as a Second Language at Thornton Community College, Harvey, IL, and later became director of learning centres in several Chicago south suburbs to Spanish-speaking migrants, Vietnam War brides and African Americans moving up from the South.

She and Gunnar protested the Vietnam War and were increasingly disillusioned both by that war and the Watergate scandal. In 1975, they decided to move permanently to their summer home in Janvins, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. As an environmentalist, Gunnar found work with the Nova Scotia Government and so they settled into "small and beautiful Nova Scotia".

Then disaster struck. In 1976 Gunnar died suddenly of a heart attack. Betty remained in Cape Breton but it wasn't the same without her Gunnar. In the late 1970s, Muriel Duckworth invited her to come down to Halifax to live with her and pursue their work together. This led to Betty's involvement with the Voice of Women on many peace and social justice projects.

At the same time, through her work with the Canadian Friends Service Committee, Betty became very involved with indigenous struggles. She protested with the Lubicon in Alberta against oil drilling on their land and, in fact, was arrested and put in jail overnight for this protest. The Lubicon called her Grandmother and affectionately referred to her as "Rambo Granny".

She also camped with the Innu of Labrador to protest NATO low-flying training flights which were frightening the animals the Innu needed as food as well as making people's lives a misery. The Innu called her Kukuminash (Old Lady with a Hug).

Over the next 35 years, Betty became a well-known figure in Halifax and Nova Scotia organizing and participating in many groups, always emphasizing non-violent means of making needed changes in the society where she lived. She was a member of the Raging Grannies, Voice of Women, Aboriginal Rights Coalition, Project Ploughshares, Canadians, Arabs and Jews for a Just Peace, Fellowship of Reconciliation, War Resisters' League and many others. One major highlight of this period was her work on the Women's International Peace Petition which she, along with others, presented to the United Nations Second Session of Disarmament in New York City in 1982. Over a million people marched that day to protest the on-going threat of nuclear war.

During the Cold War years, Betty travelled on several educational trips to China, Japan, and Russia. At home she continued her life-long advocacy for environmental protection and conservation and remained devoted to her Cape Breton farm and to her neighbours there.

During her eighties and nineties, Betty became a passionate archivist, both for the Halifax Meeting and for activist groups. She knew how easily we forget the past and the lives and work of the people who came before us.

Throughout her busy life, Betty was a profoundly spiritual person. She lived her faith in every aspect of her being. Sometimes she was impatient with the pace of change within Quakers. Often she was impatient with herself for not accomplishing more during her life. To the very end, she was indignant over injustice and the violence of war. Yet she never lost hope in our human potential to change the world for the better. She never lost her love of music and her capacity for joy in the small as well as the large aspects of everyday life. During her last hours she really did enjoy that ice cream her daughter Lisl gave her. And she spoke of visions—all the people who had gone before her were there with her at the end.

ROSS, BERT

Deceased 16 December 2017

Bert Ross, faithful attendee at Yonge Street Monthly Meeting (YSMM) for over 20 years, died at age 81 in Newmarket, Ontario on December 16, 2017.

Although Bert had not yet become a member of the Religious Society of Friends, he was a valued participant in YSMM's faith community, and was seriously considering his application for membership at the time of his death. He served on the Canadian Yearly Meeting Burial Grounds Committee, YSMM's Peace Environment and Social Action Committee and as Director of Carry on Discovery Camp at NeeKauNis. He organized thrice-yearly dinner preps at the local Inn from the Cold, and supported Friends' work in prisons by organizing an education program for inmates at Metro West Detention Centre. For several years, Friends at YSMM enjoyed the annual canoe trip to Algonquin Park that Bert helped to organize.

Bert could see the potential in every human being, and he answered That of God in all whom he met. His contributions to the world around him were numerous.

As a high school history teacher, he brought the past alive for teens who appreciated his intense passion for the subject and his belief in them, and as well for his fellow teachers as the head of the department. From a teacher who worked closely with Bert: Many people think history is irrelevant, but Bert knew that history was anything but. He also knew teenagers needed to be led to history, and did so by making the material relevant. In Bert's eyes knowing about the past opened minds much more than knowing only the present. Things in the past changed dramatically and he considered knowing that things weren't always as they are now is empowering – if it wasn't always this way it doesn't have to stay this way. He was the teacher advisor to the school's Amnesty International Club, where students working with Bert learned about human rights abuses but more importantly, they learned that they had voices and they could make a difference. Students in the A.I. club and in Bert's classes were taught to be rigorous in their research so that they used their voices and actions to do what was needed and was right even if it meant turning their backs on the crowd.

Bert and Glenna's home was always open to young people who needed shelter and some positive reinforcement. Amongst others, their foster son Peter Cos and his brother can attest to the care and the discipline, the inspiration and the encouragement they received that turned their troubled lives around and set them on the path to becoming successful adults. "One of Bert's biggest strengths was his unwavering message of diversity. He had no lines drawn, never held the bar at any particular height... He was all about people aspiring to their potential and if he could impart a message of hope, inspiration or encouragement along the way, he would slip that in. Many times his words resonated for a lifetime to those who listened."

Young people in trouble with the law met Bert when he worked on the Parole Board. He also worked to set up transitional housing in Newmarket, and served on the board of Men's Support Services for several years. During that time, the agency built a home for Young Offenders, which was one of Bert's pet projects, and operated five major supportive housing programs, providing much-needed care to hundreds of needy individuals per year. At Gwillim Place, the home for Young Offenders, Bert led weekly sessions with youth who were incarcerated, following the Seventh Step Society program, on whose board he also served. As one of his colleagues on the Board said, "Bert's frank, considered input could always be counted on, as well as his unfailing support for what was right. He also had a "crusty" side at times, when he had a differing opinion and was pleased to share it. Mens' Support Services was made better as a result of Bert's persistent, unselfish efforts."

Bert always believed in a Higher Power. He wanted people to have some connection to something that would propel them along in life in a way that was productive for the betterment of those met along the way.

Bert's deep love for the outdoors allowed him to wrap himself in a setting where he perceived that the Higher Power was at its closest. He was very quiet when paddling his canoe, so humbled by his surroundings. He was an avid birder and spent many happy days in his canoe or hiking through the woods.

Bert's determination to help make the world a better place for all who suffer was only surpassed by his love for Glenna, his love of the natural world around him, and his determination to overcome every physical ailment that arose during the last decade of his life. Indeed, we all believed that he would overcome his last bout with pneumonia. That belief only deepened the sorrow we all felt when we learned that he was gone.

Bert was able to feel comforted at the time of his mother's death by the notion that her spirit was free to accompany him in the wake of his canoe, to laugh with every bubble that his paddle created as it slipped through the water. In the end, comfort may come to those who mourn his death from the image of Bert jumping into his beloved canoe, paddling on through white water to the next stage in his journey.

TURNBULL, GERALD ROBERT
10 August 1944 – 3 April 2018

The following obituary was written by Gerald's sister and approved as a Memorial Minute by Ottawa Monthly Meeting where Gerald's membership was held.

Gerald transferred his membership from Vancouver Monthly Meeting to Ottawa Monthly Meeting on May 9, 1970 and attended until 1973. He was a member until his death, though he moved about and attended elsewhere for long periods. Ottawa Monthly Meeting remembers the Quaker hat he wore for a time and his service as a greeter. We remember him as a kind and generous man, as a deeply spiritual person, and as a faithful Friend.

Two members of OMM knew Gerald from 1987 to 1992 in Wellington, NZ. Gerald attended faithfully at Wellington Monthly Meeting for 19 years from 1973. Wellington Monthly Meeting in New Zealand reports that there was a social get-together at the historic Thistle Inn in Wellington where three Friends and a number of Gerald's former colleagues and friends shared memories about Gerald's time in Wellington. Also, they report that his ashes were scattered in the bush surrounding the Karori Cemetery.

Gerald passed away from natural causes at his home in Summerland, BC on April 3rd, 2018. He was predeceased by his father Don Turnbull in 2004, his brother Terry Turnbull and sister-in-law Lynn in 2011, and his cherished mother Ilda Turnbull in 2013. He is survived by his loving sister Joan Marles (Les), niece Suzanne Turnbull (Derrick), nephew Bill Turnbull (Jennifer), nephews Nick Marles and Tim Marles (Patricia), 2 great-nieces, and 1 great-nephew.

Born in Abbotsford on August 10th, 1944 into a RCAF family, Gerald was the second son and child. Over the years that followed, his family lived in Elgin, Vancouver, and Summerland. Gerald's childhood included happy times with his parents, his older brother Terry, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. My memories of my big brother will always be cherished. He was a gentle companion and the best playmate that a little sister could have ever had.

It was evident from a young age that Gerald's horizons knew no limits. He enjoyed and did extremely well in school. His love of reading was very evident. By early grade school, he was reading the works of William Shakespeare. In high school, he and his Summerland High School teammates achieved great local recognition after being on the television show, "Reach for the Top." This fame is still remarked on by Summerland old timers. His entire family was so proud of him.

Gerald graduated from Summerland High School in 1962. After receiving 2 degrees at UBC, he moved to Ottawa to work for the federal government, first in finance and then the National Library. In 1973, he moved to his much-loved New Zealand and worked for over 19 years in the New Zealand Parliament. He left this fascinating job to return to UBC as a mature student where he obtained his Master's in the Library Sciences.

Throughout Gerald's adult life, he was a devout Quaker. He volunteered and supported human, animal, and civil rights organizations.

Deciding to stay in Canada, Gerald's career entered the computerized age. He found his new field in Vancouver's theological libraries very intriguing. Whenever possible though, he did return to New Zealand to visit.

Gerald was a very devoted and loving son. Returning to New Zealand was always his dream. Still, he stood by his choice to stay in Canada to be available for our mother and father in their elder years of need. He was our mother's rock after our father's passing and her devoted companion and later, loving caregiver until her final breath.

Gerald was an intensely private man known by many. He will be missed. To Gerald's extended family, friends and neighbours from around the globe be assured your interest, love, and support meant much to him throughout his life.

At Gerald's request, no memorial service was held. His cremains are to be scattered in the Karori Memorial Rose Gardens, New Zealand.

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, nor any more pain, for the former things are passed away. Behold I make all things new." Revelations 21:4-5

REPORTS

Yearly Meeting Committees and Friends Serving Yearly Meeting

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

After years of concern about the future of the CYM Archives, the Committee has begun to take serious steps.

In 2018 it was reported that an increase in the archivist hours to 10 hr/week was greatly needed. In Nov 2018 a meeting was held to determine the level of support stakeholder groups are able to contribute to the ongoing operating funding of the Archives. The Samuel Rogers Trust Fund was approached and their grant of \$13,000 will be helpful. A meeting was held in February 2019, with the Clerk of CYM, the CYM Secretary, representatives of CFSC and the CYM Trustees and the Archives Committee to seek further funding to support the 2019 Archives budget and as well as continuous funding and to suggest solutions to the challenges of the future.

Previously nominations for new members for the Archives Committee have been restricted to those who are able to travel to Pickering College where the Archives are housed. When we recognized this limitation, we requested that the Archives Committee be made up of members from across Canada and that a "Friends of the Archives" group would support the archivist and the actual work of the archives. It will be made up of those who reside closer including members from the community of Newmarket and Pickering College.

The proximity of the Yearly Meeting in August 2018 gave us the opportunity to offer to attendees and Meetings the large number of duplicate and surplus books that has accumulated over many years. The hallway display was the scene of worthwhile discussions and a chance to visit with Barrie author Heather Kirk. Her recent book, *Seeking Peace: The Quakers*, researched in part at the Archives, was sold and proceeds donated to the Archives.

2018 has been a very challenging year with the archivist on medical leave for most of it, and committee members unable to be as attentive. However, with the increased funding and wider support we anticipate and the prospect of the implementation of the "Friends of the Archives" the future looks brighter for this immense treasure of over 200 years of history of Quakers in Canada.

Committee Members: Beverly Jackson, Katherine Smith, Norman Smith and Jane Zavitz-Bond

Bev Jackson (Pelham EM), Katherine Smith (Hamilton MM), Co-Clerks

BOARD OF TRUSTEES of CANADIAN YEARLY MEETING

Since our report for 2018, CYM Trustees have met once and used electronic means, including Zoom meetings, to deal with other issues. Our report includes the Statement of CYM investments and other property, specifically Yonge Street Friends Burial Ground.

Personnel Policy

The Clerk of Trustees serves on the CYM Clerks Committee, and has been joined by a second Trustee. This ensures that Trustees are linked into the major issues of concern for the Yearly Meeting. In recent years, a priority has been the improvement of CYM's Personnel management and revision of the Personnel Structure. CYM Trustees have acknowledged our responsibility for ensuring CYM's adherence to Employment Law and oversight of the Personnel Policy. Many of the tasks associated with our responsibility are carried out by the Clerks Committee and the CYM Personnel Committee, with significant work by the CYM Secretary, Cameron Fraser. We are deeply appreciative of their vision and continued efforts.

Financial Administration

- The Board of Trustees examined the Audit Findings letter and will follow up on one issue that was identified.
- With advice of the CYM Treasurer, we approved the Audited Financial Statements and signed the Audit Representation Letter.

CYM Investments

- CYM's investment portfolio has been approved to comprise up to 50% equities. The investment income is allocated to several specified funds within CYM, including Camp NeeKauNis and Trustee funds.
- The investment portfolio is monitored by the Treasurer of Trustees, Anne-Marie Zilliacus, and the other Trustees.
- The list of investments is attached, which includes the properties owned by Canadian Yearly Meeting. It reflects our position, as of December 31, 2018. The loss in the value of Preferred Shares is due to market changes. These values have not been realized because we are still holding those investments. This loss has been largely corrected in the following months.
- These investments are in compliance with CYM's Ethical Investment Policy.

Insurance

After a long period of developing and refining CYM's Policies (Addressing Harassment and Discrimination, Workplace Violence and the Safe Nurture of Vulnerable Persons in Our Care) Trustees approved applying for insurance coverage for incidents of abuse. This application is in process. CYM also holds a Directors and Officers Liability Policy. These insurance policies also cover Clerks, staff and volunteers of CYM.

Risk Assessment Reports

The process of collecting reports from all CYM committees, begun in 2014, facilitates Trustees' awareness of the ways in which risk is identified, managed and mitigated across the operations of CYM. The process has been refined and adjusted to better collect this information.

- The added value of the Risk Assessment Report is to help committee clerks and members to reflect on what risks their committees might encounter and how they are managing those risks.
- As of the Trustees' meeting, April 27, 2019, all CYM committees had provided their reports. These reports have become increasingly thoughtful and informative.
- Committee clerks are encouraged to consider their Risk Assessment Reports at their fall meetings, to inform new members and to review their attention to risk. The updated Report should be prepared by the committee by late January and forwarded to the Trustees.

Property Issues

- **CYM Archives:** Trustees bring the attention of Friends to the import value of the Archives and Quaker Library. The committee is in need of more members and resources to help develop and implement a sustainable vision for the future. We acknowledge Pickering College's continuing provision of suitable facilities and practical support, contributions-in-kind that benefit the whole Yearly Meeting. The report of the Archives Committee is elsewhere in *Documents in Advance*.
- **Camp NeeKauNis:** In addition to its Risk Assessment Report, Camp Committee forwards to Trustees the report of its Physical Development Sub Committee, which gives us a description of the maintenance and development plans for the Camp property. Trustees respect and appreciate the thoughtful stewardship of Camp's many committee members and volunteers. The Camp NeeKauNis report appears elsewhere in these *Documents in Advance*.
- **CYM owned Cemeteries:**
 - **Pickering Cemetery Committee:** Co-Convenors are Lee Adamson and Jim Adamson.
 - **Yonge Street Friends Burial Ground:** Eve Schmitz-Hertzberg is Clerk and Administrator. Report attached.
 - **Hay Bay Cemetery:** maintenance arrangements are being changed at the request of the neighbour, who has asked to be released from these tasks.

Requests to Trustee Funds

The Trustee Funds are designated for specific purposes, as described in the document, Quaker Trust Funds in Canada.

- **A.S. Rogers Fund:** a grant was provided to support costs of English Language Training for Etienne Paul Mungombe, the Sunderland P. Gardner Lecturer for 2019.
- **Sarah E. Richardson Fund:** no requests were received
- **Joseph P Rogers Fund:** no requests were received

Privacy Policy

CYM's Privacy Officer, John Dixon, continued to provide consultation about the CYM *Directory* of Members and Attenders. A printed *Directory* is now being developed, with Monthly Meetings responsible for gathering authorizations from individuals for inclusion in the *Directory*.

Legal Coordinator

CYM's Legal Coordinator, Rick Rolston received no requests for consultation.

As the Trustees review financial information and activities related to CYM activities, we are reminded of the many Friends who contribute significant time and resources to the Yearly Meeting. We are also appreciative of the work of CYM staff, Kerry MacAdam, Cam Fraser, Lorraine Burke and Archivist, Michela Lockhart, whose expertise and skills make all of us more effective.

CYM Trustees

Kwame Barko, Pete Cross, Barbara Horvath (Clerk), Martha McClure, Rick Rolston, Anne-Marie Zilliacus (Treasurer).

Barbara Horvath, Clerk (Yonge Street MM)

**Canadian Yearly Meeting Investments
at December 31, 2018**

Preferred Shares	Rate	Book Value	Market Value
Algonquin PWR&Utilities Cor	5.000%	19,210	23,100
Bank of Montreal	4.000%	68,650	59,160
Bank of Nova Scotia	4.850%	37,484	33,600
Bank of Nova Scotia	FLTG	123,067	124,850
Brookfield Asset Management Inc	n/a	20,200	17,830
Brookfield Asset MGMT Inc	5.061%	12,345	10,970
Brookfield Infrastructure Partners LP	5.350%	50,000	50,000
Brookfield Renewable Partners LP	5.000%	49,442	42,560
Canadian Western Bank	6.250%	37,747	38,025
Fairfax Financial Holdings LTD	n/a	53,878	50,775
Industrial Alliance INS & FIN	3.770%	19,691	20,500
Industrial Alliance Ins & FIN	4.800%	24,975	21,940
Manulife Financial Corp	4.351%	12,576	10,365
Northland Power Inc	FLTG	49,262	40,000
Pembina Pipeline Corp	5.000%	12,090	10,375
Power Financial Corp	4.200%	23,100	19,150
Royal Bank of Canada	4.800%	37,086	33,915
Sun Life Financial Inc	FLTG	70,400	54,504
Toronto Dominion Bank	4.500%	75,496	66,480
		<u>796,699</u>	<u>728,099</u>

Equity

AECOM Group Inc	n/a	27,412	31,698
Algonquin Power & Utilities Corp	n/a	24,827	41,190
Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc	n/a	30,750	33,955
Alphabet Inc Class A Common Stock	n/a	31,558	42,750
Bank of Montreal	n/a	41,908	37,906
Bank of Nova Scotia	n/a	102,766	120,449
BCE Inc COM NEW	n/a	73,737	72,806
Boralex Inc-CL A NEW	n/a	20,036	25,260
Brookfield Renewable Partners LP	n/a	28,925	35,350
Chartwell Retirement Residences TR Unit	n/a	30,995	38,960
Fortis Inc	n/a	41,200	45,510
Manulife Financial Corp	n/a	48,897	58,110
NFI Group Inc Com	n/a	19,022	13,616
ONEX Corp Subordinate Voting Shares	n/a	8,332	7,435
Royal Bank of Canada	n/a	97,874	144,832
Toronto-Dominion Bank	n/a	93,202	149,292
		<u>721,441</u>	<u>899,119</u>

**Scotiabank - Cash available for programs
funded directly by Trustees**

Chequing account	74,594
GICs	91,653

Investment Interest/dividends disbursed to trust programs during 2018	67,535
--	--------

**Other Property (at cost, market value not
available)**

<i>Cost since 2000, prior costs not available or insignificant in this year</i>	
Camp NeeKauNis, Waubashene, Ontario	306,422
Hay Bay Cemetery, Adolphustown, Lennox Addington County, Ontario (inactive, historic site)	
Pickering Friends Cemetery, Pickering, Ontario (active cemetery)	
Yonge Street Burial Ground, Newmarket, Ontario (active cemetery)	
Canadian Quaker Archives, Pickering College, Newmarket, Ontario	16,500

YONGE STREET FRIENDS BURIAL GROUND

Committee Members: Evelyn Schmitz-Hertzberg (Clerk and Administrator), Ruth Pincoe (Recording Clerk) Sherita Clark, Richard Kamus, Ruth Jeffery-MacLean

The Yonge Street Friends Burial Ground is located at 17000 Yonge Street in Newmarket, Ontario. It is south of and adjacent to the Yonge Street Meeting House and is maintained for the use of members of the Religious Society of Friends, regular attenders and their immediate families. The burial ground dates from 1810 and many of the first Quaker settlers of the area are buried in this old burial ground. It is one of two burial grounds under the care of the Canadian Yearly Meeting Board of Trustees and licensed under the Bereavement Authority of Ontario. Canadian Yearly Meeting holds funds in Yonge Street Cemetery Fund for maintenance of the burial ground. The committee has a bank account for discretionary funds.

Canadian Yearly Meeting Board of Trustees appoints members to the committee and these Friends are responsible for the maintenance and management of the burial ground according to Quaker practices and the Ontario Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act (2002). Although the work proceeds as necessary throughout the year, the committee meets twice yearly to review work needed and to plan. In 2018 we met in June and September. The Administrator is available at all times for the sale of plots and to insure the witness of interment or scattering of ashes.

Jeffrey Field has been serving as clerk of the committee since 1999. He stepped down this year. Ruth Jeffery Maclean has been serving as Administrator. We are thankful for the long service of these Friends. Evelyn Schmitz-Hertzberg has taken on the role of Administrator and is now also serving as Clerk. We are looking for at least one more Friend to serve on the committee.

Purchases, Interments, and Scatterings in 2018

1 burial plot was purchased by Jean Claridge

There were no burials, interments of cremains, nor scatterings.

Metal Fence to the East

On Saturday October 20, more than forty volunteers from vivaNext, RapidLINK – a consortium composed of Aecon Construction and Dufferin Construction Company – and the Quaker Meeting came together to scrape, sand, prime, and paint the fence. This community initiative was truly a sight to see. Cars driving by even honked to show their support. <http://www.vivanext.com/blog/2018/10/26/revitalizing-the-quaker-house-and-cemetery-fence-in-newmarket/>

Historic Stones

The committee is working on the best way forward to continue with the restoration of historic grave markers in the burial ground.

Landscaping and Tree Care

Richard Kamus, who is a practical person, has been instrumental in doing the landscape work that is needed. We have a grasscutter, who is contracted, but the trees and shrubs on the property need maintenance. It is difficult to find contractors who will do small landscape jobs and the committee's access to funds to care for the burial ground are limited. The very large and old maple trees on the property were becoming a hazard and needed proper pruning and cabling. Advanced Tree Care (\$5,825.15) was contracted. We asked Samuel Rogers Trust Fund (\$3,500) to help us with this expense.

Database

The database of historical stones is being upgraded by Richard Kamus using Filemaker Database.

Administration

Evelyn Schmitz-Hertzberg is available to take care of selling lots, maintaining records, communicating with the Bereavement Authority and the Public Guardian, banking, and filing reports. On site responsibilities are shared by the committee. The witnessing of interments and scatterings is an important function of the committee. Families are helped as requested and needed at the time of interment. Meetings for Worship for burial and scatterings should be under the care of the Monthly Meeting that the person was connected to. Funeral directors make many of the practical arrangements. A request to the Clerk of Yonge Street Meeting for use of the meeting house may be part of these arrangements. Yonge Street Burial Ground has a relationship with Baker Vault, the firm that digs graves for burial and cremains. Luesby Memorial Company knows the Burial Ground and our policy around regulations for markers.

Information for Friends about the Burial Ground

The committee has decided that <https://quaker.ca/> will have a page with information about the Burial Ground. This should be sufficient for our needs as the Burial Ground is available only for members of the Religious Society of Friends, regular attenders, members of their families, and descendants of families buried there. Evelyn Schmitz-Hertzberg, as Administrator, may be contacted at eve.hertzberg@gmail.com.

Evelyn Schmitz-Hertzberg, Administrator (Yonge Street MM)

Financial Statement - Yonge Street Friends Burial Ground Newmarket, 2018

Opening balance: \$5,422.41

Debits:

Bank Charges: \$133.00

Cheque to public Guardian: \$800.00

\$600.00 re: 2017

Storm water charges: \$41.40 (Town of Newmarket)

Software cost: \$263.00 (Richard)

Expenses: \$29.92 (Ruth)

Credits:

Luesby \$226.00 (Jacob and Simons)

Lot sold: \$1,000.00 (Claridge)

Closing balance: \$4,789.3

Evelyn Schmitz-Hertzberg (Administrator)

CAMP NEEKAUNIS

Some Friends/Meetings have donated to the CYM General Fund, thinking that they were donating to Camp. We will work with CYM's Contributions Committee to clarify in their publicity that a donation to Camp NeeKauNis must be directed to us by name in order to reach us. Camp does not receive monies from the CYM General Fund. Kris Wilson-Yang has been working joyfully with the Contributions Clerk and will continue to do so over the next year.

We request reciprocal mention of Camp in CYM outreach materials, and we will continue mentioning CYM and Canadian Friends Service Committee in our outreach. We thank Friends for their support and the resources that Publications and Communications Committee (P&C) have provided for us; we will continue to support P&C in any way that we can.

We also ask for clarity from CYM Education and Outreach Committee (E&O) regarding the level of support for travel to NeeKauNis, so as to make sure our current statements are accurate, and to be clearer on how to communicate requests for funds to E&O. The Clerks will also contact the Clerk of E&O to ask how Camp can support E&O. We are very grateful for the open-hearted help that we have been given by E&O in the past. We will send our current statements to E&O for advice.

We thank Young Friends for their use of Camp, and Yearly Meeting for hosting the Picnic Day at Camp during the 2018 season.

Please contact Recruitment & Management SC at neekaunis.recruiting@gmail.com if Friends are interested in Camp committee work in general. It is a preferred first step that nominated Friends have attended Camp at least once before being named to the Camp Committee.

Draft: Camp NKN Bursary/Subsidy Information for Directors and Committee Members

2018-10-1 **Subsidies for Camper Fees:**

1. Campers are asked to request help, preferably a specific amount, at the time of registration with their directors.
2. If the Camper is a Friend, advise them first to ask Monthly Meeting for partial/full fees support. The MMs must get the money to camp or send it with the Camper.
3. If the Camper is a Friend but still needs help, suggest they might pay an amount equivalent to grocery money/day-care that would be saved. (We are suggesting \$10-\$20/day per camper.)
4. If the Camper is not a Friend, or it is too late to contact Monthly Meeting, try #3

5. Director calculates remaining fees and enters the amount of support in the distribution sheet at the end of Camp. **On the fees receipt, the director enters only what has been paid by the Camper.**
6. This amount gets transferred to our income stream from Bursary Fund/Bursary donations.

2018-10-2 **Travel Bursary for Western and Eastern Young Friends:**

1. We have \$1000 assigned to this fund in total for travel to Camp for Young Friends travelling from outside of Ontario.
2. Requests must be supported by a Minute from a Monthly Meeting. Friends can contact us directly, either to the Director or to the Clerks.
3. When we have the requested amount, we forward it to the person. There is a minute to support the request so that is as good as a receipt.

If the \$1000 is not assigned to Young Friends Travel, it may be used to support travel help for other Friends.

2018-10-3 **Other Travel Assistance:**

- (1) Staff requests financial travel help (e.g. bus fare). We may consider travel help for Campers if a bursary request has not also been made.
- (2) Staff person fronts purchase; reimbursement through usual channels with receipts.
- (3) Director lets Clerks know.
- (4) Clerks contact CYM Outreach and Education Clerk with request for money. This is used to reimburse Camp. This to be done at a time that is workable for O&E.

2018-10-4 **Cook's Stipend:**

1. Cook's stipend is \$40/day for head cooks. This is an automatic stipend and does not require application. Directors fill in a cheque requisition for the stipend, and it is paid to the cook directly.

Diana Stephens (Hamilton MM) and Kris Wilson-Yang (Ottawa MM)

CANADIAN FRIENDS FOREIGN MISSION BOARD

The project we approved last fall with Belize Friends/Community Safety Forum vs Human Trafficking in Belize was finalized and the \$3,200 was forwarded through Friends United Meeting.

The goal of the project is to help young people recognize the risks posed by human traffickers and gang member and to help educate them to avoid dangerous situations. It is a Project of Friends United Meeting carried out through the Belize City Friends Centre. The project will run from March 2019 to December 2020.

George Webb (Coldstream MM)

CANADIAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

CFSC CLERK'S REPORT

It has been a full year with CFSC's work growing in many exciting ways. We were blessed to start the year by welcoming a new staff person, Verena Tan, to the criminal justice coordinator position; work which hadn't been supported by a staff person for a year. Part way through the year, due to work commitments on the other side of the world, Derek Nice changed positions on CFSC to Associate Clerk largely to play the role of mentor to me as the incoming Clerk. Despite the distance, we are grateful for his continued contributions and support to CFSC's work.

Our new structure has enabled us to more intentionally meet and connect with Friends and Monthly Meetings in other parts of the country. Meetings were held, often alongside public events, on Vancouver Island, Saskatchewan, Winnipeg, Toronto, and Ottawa. Jennifer Preston, CFSC's General Secretary and Indigenous Rights Coordinator, with assistance from others, presented Quaker Study all week at the 2018 CYM Gathering. At the Gathering, Verena presented a workshop on what restorative justice looks like. At Western Half Yearly Meeting, CFSC's Peace Program Coordinator, Matthew Legge, with the assistance of past and present CFSC members, led the Saturday evening program and also hosted a workshop. CFSC also visited Yonge Street Monthly Meeting and attended Representative Meeting in Victoria.

Our new structure meant the time-consuming task of revising and approving all of our administrative and personnel policies, which is now thankfully done. We worked with CYM's Steering Committee Representative to Kairos, Anne Mitchell, to bring forward recommendations related to the Kairos membership. At Representative Meeting, it was agreed that CYM take full responsibility for the membership and CFSC will assist in the cost sharing of the Canadian Friends contribution over the next three years. Representatives also agreed to move the membership of Project Ploughshares from CYM to CFSC.

It's been two years since the staffing model was restructured. CFSC's Personnel Committee met with staff to evaluate the changes and tweak job descriptions. Since the jobs were realigned there has been less stress on staff. The capacity of staff to carry out program work and fundraise has been enhanced by the new and more formalized Program Assistant position.

Approximately half of our revenue comes from donations, both from individuals and Monthly Meetings. A reserve fund in the form of investments and bequests contribute to the remainder of

our budget. While our funding is at least somewhat sustainable, we cannot take future donations and bequests for granted. To that end, we developed a 10-year vision and budget to assist with fundraising and also allocated a little more staff time to this. CFSC has not approached Monthly Meetings in years, which is why your meeting received a request from us. Our financial statements for 2018-2019 will be available on our website after the audit is complete in July 2019.

Individual grants were given to: Karen Ridd, an attendee at Winnipeg Monthly Meeting, to undertake a Compassionate Listening Journey to Palestine and Israel; and to Rose Marie Cipryk of Niagara Quakers for firewood, food and signage to support an annual Deer Hunt that recognizes treaty rights.

This report is a brief snapshot of our work. There are many channels to find out, in more depth, all that we do: website; *Quaker Concern*; E-newsletter; social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram); through CFSC liaisons in Monthly Meeting; workshops and visits by CFSC staff and committee members to Monthly Meetings; and external publications and media interviews. We encourage Friends to explore our website at <http://quakerservice.ca> and get to know the justice and peace work we do.

Stephen Bishop (Vancouver Island MM)

Peace Work

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

To help us achieve this goal, we finalized a book, *Are We Done Fighting? Building Understanding in a World of Hate and Division*, written by our Peace Program Coordinator Matthew Legge. The book is full of carefully collected research and practical tips readers can use right away (see <https://arewedonefighting.com/>). This coming year, we are eager to take the book on the road and use it as a tool for dialogue with communities.

CFSC committee member Bertha Small successfully visited partners carrying out peace work in Burundi and DR Congo. CFSC's support has allowed Friends Women's Association in Burundi to operate a gender-based violence reduction program. Our support has also enhanced the long-term sustainability of Project Muinda in Kinshasa, DR Congo through having a building to rent out with revenues going to pay for peace work. During her visit, Bertha assisted with establishing Alternative to Violence Project in Kinshasa. Support was also renewed for women's vocational training activities there. Volunteers in Kinshasa are helping to transform conflicts and you can find out more about them and Bertha's visit in recent editions of *Quaker Concern*.

We continued to support conscientious objectors to military service (Jewish Israeli and Druze) and monthly meetings of the Israel/Palestine Working Group to offer a place for Friends to share their concerns and energies toward a just peace. Despite the challenges in this work, it is undoubtedly life-changing for the conscientious objectors themselves and makes a tiny but meaningful contribution toward the broader peace movement in Israel/Palestine.

In other work, we assisted the Canadian Peace Initiative in updating their website and in the creation of the animated video *The Story of the Rohingya: Imagine Another Way*. We continued to provide major support for refugees through Toronto Meeting's Quaker Committee for

Refugees. We conducted research, developed educational resources and public statements to represent Friends' concerns on: synthetic biology; Bill C-47 and regulation of Canada's arms trade; the need for a National Day of Action on Hate and Intolerance; the possible deportation to torture of Mohamed Harkat; accusations of anti-Semitism against human rights activists; international day of peace statement to the UN; an independent inquiry into the extradition of Hassan Diab; honesty in labelling of settlement products; and condemning violence against protesters in Gaza.

Criminal Justice Work

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

A significant portion of our work on criminal justice was related to the issue of children of incarcerated parents. We published research on how judges sentence parents and how this affects children, and hosted the first ever national dialogue on this issue in Canada with national organizations, academics, social workers, lawyers, representatives of the Office of the Correctional Investigator, the Saskatchewan Office of the Child Advocate, Toronto Children's Aid, and Indigenous organizations. The dialogue and report on the meeting was funded with support from Public Safety Canada. We were delighted when CBC's *The Sunday Edition* interviewed Verena Tan, our criminal justice program coordinator, about the research.

Out of the dialogue, one participant along with CFSC has taken the lead in forming a new Canadian Coalition on Children of Incarcerated Parents and CFSC has committed to organizing these meetings. This also led us to discussions with experts and child welfare about developing training on this issue for their workers. Work on this issue will continue over the coming year.

CFSC committee members and Verena attended several conferences in relation to prison issues and restorative justice, including conferences in Nova Scotia, Saskatoon and Ottawa. We participated in a Children's Rights Conference with the aim of contributing to the non-government organizations Shadow Report to the UN Review of Canada's compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in 2019-2020. We continued to contribute to policy submissions and consultations on criminal justice issues including mandatory minimum sentences, criminal records, healing lodges, solitary confinement, the Ontario Child Advocate and homelessness and youth. In this work, we actively engage in partnerships with coalition boards, the National Associations Active in Criminal Justice, the Church Council on Justice and Corrections, and the National Youth Justice Network.

We gave small grants to: a MAP reintegration project, a peer model reintegration group for people released from custody; Communitas for an educational scholarship for a child of an incarcerated person; Concillio Prison Ministry to hold a reintegration learning day; and to Micah Mission to run a fishing trip to support reintegration.

We also facilitated a penal abolition workshop in Winnipeg. We have facilitated a number of these workshops now and review of feedback from Friends across the country indicate that there is now a deeper understanding of penal abolition, i.e. the need to transform Canada's criminal justice system from one that is based on punishment of the offender to a system that addresses the root causes of crime, demands accountability from the person causing harm and

provides healing for those who've been harmed. We are now in the midst of developing a new workshop series on restorative justice skills for Monthly Meetings.

Indigenous Peoples' Human Rights Work

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

The *Declaration* has become the primary framework and rationale for advancing the rights of Indigenous peoples in Canada, and is close to being further entrenched in Canada through Bill C-262. This past year was filled with breakthroughs and challenges in advancing the *Declaration*. A testament to the effectiveness of CFSC's Indigenous rights work over the past year is that demand has surged for presentations, advice and publications related to the *Declaration* and Free, Prior and Informed Consent.

At the international level, we participated in the launch of the International year of Indigenous Languages and in the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York and the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Geneva.

On the domestic front, we worked closely with the Coalition for the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples by hosting meetings with government representatives, providing advice on resources, and becoming the webmaster for the Coalition's website.

We were intensively involved with Bill C-262 and made appearances at the Standing Committee on the Bill. We attended numerous meetings with parliamentarians and senators, the Assembly of First Nations Special Assembly, contributed to joint statements, provided advice, produced resource information, and supported a national Church leaders delegation to the Senate. We attended the UBCIC Chiefs Council in Vancouver and served as an advisor to their *Declaration* project that is working towards building a legislative framework for the *Declaration* in British Columbia. A provincial level conversation there is now beginning to implement the *Declaration* in provincial law.

Our Indigenous rights staff person, Jennifer Preston, gave presentations and participated in many events at universities, with church bodies, Monthly Meetings, and Indigenous communities across Canada.

We launched the Reconciliation Fund, which will provide grants of up to \$1,000 for Indigenous individuals and communities for projects related to language and culture. We coordinated Monthly Meeting reports on TRC work, the annual report on TRC work to Canadian Yearly meeting, and the re-printing and distribution of *Truth and Reconciliation: A Guide for Canadian Quakers* (2015) and *Truth and Reconciliation: Quakers in Action* (2017). Participation in this yearly reporting process has increased the involvement of several Meetings in reconciliation work.

We worked with the University of British Columbia in submitting an application for research funding on implementing the *Declaration* in Canada and the Global North (New Zealand, Australia and Scandinavia) and contributed a chapter on Canada to the International Working Group on Indigenous Affairs publication *Indigenous World 2018 edition*.

This coming year we will continue to work on advancing Bill C-262 with our partners. We will be taking an Indigenous youth to the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York. We will continue work on developing an Advice and Query on Indigenous rights/relationships with Indigenous peoples and develop a resource to assist Friends and Meetings with territorial acknowledgements.

CFSC's staff: Jennifer Preston (General Secretary and Indigenous Rights Program Coordinator); Tasmin Rajotte (CFSC Administrator); Matthew Legge (Peace Program Coordinator and Communications Coordinator); Verena Tan (Criminal Justice Program Coordinator); Megan Shaw (Office Coordinator and Finance Assistant); and Keira Mann (Program Assistant).

CFSC's Board members: Stephen Bishop (Clerk), Derek Nice (Associate Clerk), Jeffrey Little (Treasurer), Graeme Hope (Recording Clerk), Carol Dixon (Nominating Clerk), Margaret McCaffrey (Personnel Clerk), Daisie Auty (Clerk, criminal justice work), Rachel Singleton-Polster (Clerk, Indigenous rights work), and Bertha Small (Clerk, peace work).

CFSC members: Criminal Justice - Joy Morris and Dick Cotterill; Peace - Linda Taffs and Dale Dewar; and Indigenous Rights - Manuela Popovici and Barbara Everdene.

CFSC associates are:

Indigenous Rights: Phyllis Fischer, Paul Joffe, Monica Walters-Field, Dick Preston, Elaine Bishop, Don Alexander, Penni Burrell, Rob Hughes.

Peace: Elizabeth Block (Civil Liberties), Gianne Broughton (AGLI/Project Muinda), Trevor Chandler (Peace), Janine Gagnier (FWA-Burundi), Sheila Havard (AGLI/Project Muinda), Barbara Heather (Peace), Anne Mitchell (Biotechnology), Eric Schiller (Project Muinda); and Israel/Palestine Working Group: Sara AvMaat, Elizabeth Block, Paul Dekar, David Greenfield, Maxine Kaufman-Lacusta, Margaret Slavin, Colin Stuart, Linda Taffs, Brigitte Wellershausen, and Stephen Bishop.

Criminal Justice: Elaine Bishop (urban policing, TRC, indigenous issues in justice); Sarah Chandler (BC Justice Review Process, Human Rights, Child Rights); Marianne Ostopovich-Freeman (liaison because her meeting funds prison magazine, Out of Bounds and liaises with the William Head Institute); Sharon Wright (history of punishment, Micah board, CoSA link, Saskatchewan knowledge); Linda Foy (AVP facilitator, active volunteer in prisons), Jim Caughran (prison alternatives), Evelyne Russell and David Summerhays.

Finance: Don Alexander, Pete Cross.

Personnel: Lana Robinson, Ginny Walsh, Anne Christie.

CYM CLERK'S REPORT

The presiding clerk of Canadian Yearly Meeting presides over the Meetings for Worship for Business at CYM in session and also over Representative Meeting sessions, but during the year many occasions arise which require the attention and response of the clerk between sessions, including requests from outside bodies such as the Canadian Council of Churches, Friends General Conference, and Kairos. Because the clerk of a Quaker body is not the supreme spokesperson for that body (as in some denominations), but rather a conduit for the divine will as discerned by the members of the body, the clerk doesn't act from her (or his) own impulses but rather, in CYM, seasons her responses through a smaller group, known as the Committee of Clerks, or Clerks' Committee (CC), to feel more confident of acting as Friends would wish.

In the past, Clerks' Committee has been composed of the presiding clerks of CYM (one of whom is either Incoming Clerk or Mentoring Clerk), the clerk of CYM Trustees, and the Treasurer. Because in the past year we have had only one presiding clerk of CYM, and we no longer have a treasurer, the clerk of Trustees, Barbara Horvath, and I determined that our discernment would be better-grounded if we added a couple of other appropriate Friends. We asked John Samson Fellows (Winnipeg MM), the recording clerk who is continuing from CYM 2018 to CYM 2020, to join the CC; and because a number of the decisions we are asked to make have financial implications, we also asked Finance Committee to appoint a representative to the CC, and Peter Cross (Hamilton MM) is serving in that capacity. In addition, CYM Secretary Cameron Fraser (Victoria MM) participates in most of the meetings to inform us and to be informed on all sorts of aspects of CYM life. CC is the Secretary's employing committee and he reports regularly to this body.

The Clerks' Committee meets by electronic means at least once a month. Since last Yearly Meeting sessions there have been ten regular calls and a number of extra ones to consider particular matters. Some of the special meetings have been to work on matters relating to Personnel, and for these calls Monica Walters-Field, the clerk of Personnel Committee, has participated.

We have also had several special calls regarding the crisis situation of Archives Committee (insufficient membership, heavy work load, and increasing financial needs). We have offered strong moral support to Archives and are working with those most concerned to try to resolve the difficulties. We supported Archives in applying for extra funding for the paid archivist. At the considered suggestion of Clerks' Committee, having met with some Friends associated with Archives Committee, the clerk of Archives and I prepared a letter in February to be sent to CYM Nominating Committee, asking that a request be sent to Monthly Meetings across CYM for Friends to be nominated to Archives Committee. Archives Committee would then be the body providing direction and oversight for the maintenance of our archives, while a separate and more local group could provide concrete assistance to the paid archivist.

Staff matters dealt with in Clerks' Committee included review of all contracts, addition of confidentiality clauses to contracts, storage of and access to contracts, preparing a new contract for the CYM Secretary, and clarifying things such as vacation time approval, time in lieu of overtime, adherence to personnel policy, and hours averaging, for all the staff.

Clerks' Committee gave interim approval for the appointment of a new member to Personnel Committee, Holly Turner (Edmonton MM), so that she could begin work immediately.

With the oversight and approval of Clerks' Committee I wrote a letter of apology to Friends in Friends General Conference for a situation in which a survey we were asked to distribute to Meetings across Canada became lost during the complete re-organization and renovation of the Ottawa office. Similarly, I wrote a statement for posting on our website and Facebook page, expressing Friends' sorrow and distress over the shootings in Christchurch, New Zealand, and other acts of religious intolerance around the world. In the same vein, Clerks' Committee reviewed, revised, and approved a letter to newspapers in Montreal and Toronto expressing distress about the religious symbols prohibition law being proposed in Quebec (now passed).

Other letters included those requested by Friends at CYM 2018 to the Pope in support of his condemnation of the death penalty, to United Friends Churches as greetings and support for their gathering, and to Meetings giving the position description for the carbon coordinator; a letter welcoming the establishment of Atlantic Half-Yearly Meeting (AHYM); and one affirming the validity of AHYM, for banking purposes. Regular letters from the Clerk include the one welcoming representatives to Representative Meeting, the annual funding appeal, thank-you to donors, the reminder to MM clerks about information required by the YM office, and the welcome to YM letter for the YM registration material.

On behalf of CYM, I signed contracts for our online course facilitators, Arwen Brenneman and David Summerhays; the online course administrator, David Summerhays; the CYM Secretary, Cameron Fraser; Islandside (our webminder); Business Sherpa Group (for employment standards consultation); The Canadian Friend editor, Tim Kitz; and a short-term contractor to create a revised Contract for Provision of Services, Maggie Knight.

To ensure the smooth progress of CYM business, I have maintained regular check-ins with Kerry MacAdam, Office Administrator, both by e-mail and by telephone. Together we are making arrangements for the printing, for the archives, of the minutes and reports for CYM and Representative Meeting sessions, which are now as a rule not printed. In support of the production of a comprehensive printed Directory (to include individual Friends, Meetings and Worship Groups, Yearly Meeting Committee members, and other Friends serving CYM), we worked with our privacy officer, John Dixon, to draft a letter to Monthly Meeting Clerks which we hope will be successful in producing a more comprehensive Directory than the previous permission form did.

In regard to our membership in the Canadian Council of Churches, I completed a questionnaire on racial justice actions in CYM in May (copy available on request), signed a letter to the government re Honduran and Central American migrants, and signed a letter to the Prime Minister on nuclear disarmament. Member churches are always invited to offer suggestions regarding these letters, and I generally do so. I have also been in correspondence with the CCC administrators regarding the ongoing problem of our requested financial support being well out of proportion to our numbers, compared to other churches in Canada. I believe we're making some progress here!

Friends General Conference sponsors regular Yearly Meeting Clerks' conference calls, in which I have participated as available. Ideas shared in the September call included the practice of many YMs to have 4-year terms for clerks and to have two clerks serving at a time, with staggered terms. This has been CYM's practice in the very recent past, and it seems to be one most favoured by other Yearly Meetings; we are attempting to re-establish it.

For environmental, financial, and time reasons, I have not participated in face-to-face meetings, such as general board meetings, for either FGC or the CCC.

I have been in contact (via administrative associate Susan Lee Barton) with Barry Crossno, FGC General Secretary, about his upcoming attendance at CYM as the FGC representative; since he can only attend half the gathering, we consulted to decide which half would be best for Barry and for CYM. He will be attending for the beginning.

I would like to express my gratitude to Barbara Horvath for faithfully and competently taking notes during the Clerks' Committee calls and distributing them to the CC members afterwards. These records are invaluable, both for reference at the time and for future consultation.

Beverly Shepard (Hamilton MM)

CONTRIBUTIONS COMMITTEE

Since the rise of CYM in 2018, our Committee has been engaged in a number of activities to promote CYM members contributing to CYM. However, we were disheartened to learn that the donations for this last year have reduced considerably, and are keen to address and reverse this change.

Our commitment is to connect with members at least four times a year about the importance of donating to CYM: through the year-end annual appeal via the letter from the Clerk, a 'thank you' to donors for the previous year, a 'spring mail out' and regular contributions to *The Canadian Friend*.

This past year:

- We thanked all those who donated directly to CYM, as has been our tradition for many years. Kerry MacAdam, Office Administrator, did a wonderful job of ensuring each was personally thanked and the receipts/notes went out in good time. This year, Fran McQuail initiated and implemented our thanks to those who donate online through www.CanadaHelps.org. CanadaHelps issues their own tax receipts as they are a registered charity. They collect the donated funds earmarked for CYM; keep a percentage for administrative fees, and then forward the funds to CYM. It took some refining to obtain the appropriate names and addresses to thank people who donated through CanadaHelps.
- We have submitted articles regularly to *The Canadian Friend* and appreciate their publication in a well-edited and placed manner. Thank you Tim Kitz!
- We conducted a detailed analysis to offer Friends an e-transfer option for regular automatic contributions. Unfortunately, this option is not available for our organization.
- The activities of CYM can be invisible to Monthly Meeting Friends who are not otherwise engaged with Canadian Quaker activity. We have submitted a request to Clerks Committee to send new members a 'welcoming letter'. This outlines the benefits of CYM to new members. We hope it stimulates interest in becoming involved with CYM, and consideration of donations to CYM.
- We supported Discipline Review Committee's work towards having our role as part of *Organization and Procedure* accepted.
- Our vision to develop a collaborative framework, to best enable work with CYM committees, regional groups and others has been implemented in part this year. The

Clerk participated in Publications and Communications Committee meeting through phone link. Fran McQuail, our Finance liaison has been effective at communicating various issues between the two Committees.

- The Clerk attended Representative Meeting in Victoria and reached out to Western Friends, and interviewed some for relevant experiences while at the meeting. We find comments about the positive impact of CYM on Friends helpful to remind others of the benefits of having a CYM.
- Our Bequests brochure is available online. We are working to improve our website's attractiveness, and increase use of it for consultation by Friends. A copy of the brochure will have been distributed to Friends in the spring.

Plans for the Future:

The extremely generous donation to CYM is now at the half-way point of use as this is written. It was clear from reports at Representative Meeting that it is having the intended positive impact on CYM, in that the Yearly Meeting Secretary is enabling restructuring to occur.

- We will be asking donors to recommit to their previous level of generosity, and increasing it as we move towards a new way of doing our business.
- We will increase outreach regarding CYM's work by developing material that expand on the proposed Welcome Letter. Possible distribution through Monthly Meetings to attenders or other methods will be encouraged.

Education about CYM's finances is essential to encourage Friends to donate. To this end we plan to:

- Distribute an easy-to-understand chart regarding "where our money goes and where it comes from". It should have arrived by mail as part of our spring mailing. Thank you Anne-Marie Zilliacus for this.
- A Special Interest Group is arranged to inform Friends at CYM in Session 2019 about ways that donations can be made that are creative and can be of benefit to Friends as well.
- Continue to submit articles regularly to *The Canadian Friend*.
- Continue to encourage regional liaison among Friends regarding donations. We believe it is an effective way to encourage Friends to be financially supportive of CYM. Reflective discussions with those we know well is how many find their way to send funds to CYM.

At the rise of CYM 2019 we will be losing George Webb, whose dedicated membership on this Committee has been essential to its effectiveness for the last six years. We thank George for his service. We hope we will have new names put forward, as George is currently the only CYM member of the Committee other than the Clerk. We are grateful for Kerry and Fran's contributions in their roles to the Committee. Penni Burrell (Clerk), George Webb, Fran McQuail (Finance Committee liaison), Kerry MacAdam (Staff support)

Penni Burrell (Annapolis Valley MM)

CYM PRIVACY OFFICER

In 2013 the CYM Trustees approved the Privacy Policy for CYM and since then it has been posted on the CYM website (see quaker.ca/resources/policies). The policy is based on the Canadian Government's *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act* (PIPIA) and used models of privacy policies formulated by other churches and faith groups.

Friends have been respectful in their use of personal information in the past, but the CYM Policy sets out in detail how we deal with information entrusted to us with an awareness of how electronic storage and communication are especially vulnerable to misuse.

Following a decision in Representative Meeting in 2017 CYM has distributed a printed Directory of members' contact information (your name, your Monthly Meeting, your postal address and your email) among Friends in Yearly Meeting. Many Friends and committees find this Directory very useful resource, but the Privacy Policy requires an individual's consent before contact information can be included in the Directory. So far many Friends' names are not included because Yearly Meeting does not have their consent. In the next few months CYM will be contacting your Monthly Meeting to ask as many Friends as possible to indicate their consent, and so make the Directory more inclusive.

As has become evident in the wider society there seems no ideal way to preserve privacy. There is a tension between convenience and desire to communicate with each other, and our wish to retain control of our private information. It is a compromise: we have to decide where we individually and corporately are willing to draw a reasonable line.

Friends are encouraged to (re)-read the CYM Privacy Policy and consider its implications in our work in Yearly Meeting. More generally we should be discussing the wider question of openness vs. privacy.

John Dixon (Ottawa MM)

DISCIPLINE REVIEW COMMITTEE

The three members of Discipline Review Committee – Ruth Pincoe (Toronto MM, clerk), Dawne Smith (Ottawa MM), and Carol Leigh Wehking (Hamilton MM) – have met twice since the 2018 session of Canadian Yearly Meeting.

We anticipate the naming of one or two Friends to work with Carol Leigh Wehking on the overall rewrite of *Organization and Procedure*. We also hope for an additional member for Discipline Review Committee [CYM Minute 2016.08.27 and RM Minute 2018.08.31.2].

At our most recent meeting, held in Toronto on 26–28 February, we reviewed the current status of our work. We have four texts to bring forward for First or Second Reading:

- 2.8 Minute of Record (definition) — First Reading
- 5.3 Formation of New Half-Yearly Meetings — First Reading
- 6.10 Camp NeeKauNis Committee — 2nd First Reading
- 6.13 Contributions Committee — 2nd Second Reading

We have four items for which we require decisions or further direction from Yearly Meeting.

- Fulfilling roles or responsibilities
- New Canadian Advices and Queries
- Text on Conflict Resolution/Transformation
- Canadian Friends Service Committee

Part A — Texts for First or Second Reading

1 Minute of Record (definition) [RM Minute 2016.11.17]

Discipline Review Committee has been asked to “clarify” the term “minute of record” and to “establish a procedure to discern when its use is appropriate.” We began by gathering examples of definitions and usage by Quaker bodies in Canada, the United States, and Britain. We also noted two examples of CYM usage of this term in recent years: the *Minute of Record on Same-Sex Marriage* [CYM 2003.08.56]; and the *Minute of Record on Nuclear Energy and Uranium Issues* [CYM 2011.08.56].

We have created a definition for the use of the term “minute of record” in Canadian Yearly Meeting. We bring this definition forward for First Reading. We suggest that it be added as a new paragraph in Section 2.8 Minutes, placed after the first paragraph or at the end of the section.

2 5.3 Formation and Laying Down of Half-Yearly Meetings [CYM 2018.08.15–16]

After the formation of Atlantic Half-Yearly Meeting was approved at CYM 2018, Discipline Review Committee was asked to revise the text in *Organization and Procedure* to reflect the process developed in forming this new Half-Yearly Meeting. We adapted the text provided by the Ad Hoc Committee and bring the revised text for Section 5.3 forward for First Reading.

We have not been directed to expand or revise the text regarding the dissolution of a Half-Yearly Meeting.

3 6.10 Camp NeeKauNis Committee [CYM 2018.08.31.2]

When the text for Section 6.10 Camp NeeKauNis Committee was brought to CYM 2018 for First Reading, changes were requested from the floor. Discipline Review Committee was asked to bring a revised text to CYM 2019 for a 2nd First Reading. We examined the text, noting that the requested changes involved only the brief historical introduction. We realized that the difficulty lay in our attempt to summarize, in a single short paragraph, the historical background of an established and significant Canadian Quaker institution.

We determined that these details, though of great interest, would be better integrated into the Historical Outline, and that Section 6.10 should contain only the terms of reference for Camp NeeKauNis Committee, which have been approved by both the Camp Committee and DRC. We bring this text forward to CYM 2019 for 2nd First Reading.

4 6.13 Contributions Committee [CYM 2018.08.31.2, RM 2017.06.16, and CYM 2018.08.31.2]

The text describing the mandate of Contributions Committee was created in consultation with that committee and approved for First Reading at the June 2017 Representative Meeting. When it was brought forward for Second Reading at CYM 2018, changes were requested from the floor. Discipline Review Committee was asked to consult with other associated committees and bring a revised 2nd Second Reading to CYM 2019.

We examined the text, made additional revisions, and sent it to Contributions Committee, Finance Committee, and the CYM Trustees for comment. The first two committees had only minor suggestions. The Trustees, however, noted the important need to explain clearly why Friends are asked to contribute to CYM both as individuals and through their monthly meetings. We have added three sentences to the Contributions Committee mandate addressing the need for individual contributions. We bring this text forward for 2nd Second Reading.

The Trustees also pointed out that individual donations are not mentioned in the Finance Committee mandate. We suggest that CYM might consider a similar revision for Section 6.7 Finance Committee.

Part B — Issues Requiring Direction or Discernment from Yearly Meeting

5 Fulfilling Roles or Responsibilities [RM Minute 2017.06.27]

At the June 2017 Representative Meeting Discipline Review Committee was asked to “draft a section in our Discipline addressing ways to respond when a named person or committee is unable to fulfil the role that we have asked them to do.”

We added this task to our agenda but feel that we do not have sufficient guidance to proceed. The “ways to respond” may have been clear to Friends at the June 2017 Representative meeting, but none of the DRC members were present at that session and the minute itself provides no detail. We request further discernment from Yearly Meeting or from a smaller body (such as CYM Clerks’ Committee).

6 New Advices and Queries [CYM Minutes 2018.08.24 and 2018.08.49]

According to CYM Minute 2018.08.49, new Canadian advices and queries will come under the care of Discipline Review Committee and “will be published in *Organization and Procedure* as an appendix following the current Advices and Queries.”

Friends who had concerns about this process were invited to share them with DRC for further discernment. We have not received any written responses on the matter incorporating future advices and queries. We suggest that the Britain Yearly Meeting Advices and Queries should form “Appendix A–I” and that future Canadian Advices and Queries be placed in a new “Appendix A–II.” We seek Yearly Meeting approval for this structure.

Meanwhile, we await the new query on our relationship with Indigenous peoples, the text of which is being seasoned by the Indigenous Peoples’ Human Rights Program of CFSC.

7 A New Section on Conflict Resolution/Transformation

The preparation of a section on conflict resolution has been on the agenda of Discipline

Review Committee since 2016, but our progress has been hampered first by a need to complete work in progress on several other texts, and then by health issues and bereavement that precluded committee meetings for more than a year.

During our last two meetings (in September 2018 and in February 2019), we devoted considerable time to the consideration of such a text. It seemed like a daunting task, and it is. We began by collecting a wide variety of documents from Quaker bodies in Canada, the United States, Australia, and Britain. These documents had interesting similarities and differences. Some were short. Others were quite substantial and complex, involving staff and funding. All of these documents had been created for specific use within for a particular body or organization.

By the end of our discussion in February we reached the conclusion that the weight and importance of this topic requires broader discernment than we (a committee of three Ontario Friends working on a number of other *O&P* texts) can possibly provide. We know this is an important issue. We are aware that Meetings have face serious challenges with conflict. We ask the Yearly Meeting to consider two recommendations.

First, we recommend that the initial development of an approach to, and procedure for, addressing conflict within Meetings be entrusted to broader discernment, and suggest that this task might be best accomplished by an ad hoc committee appointed by Yearly Meeting. We are prepared to support the ad hoc committee as way opens.

Second, while there is no common understanding of how to address conflict, we know that timely action and a common vocabulary are of utmost importance. We recommend the development of a vocabulary or glossary of terms related to conflict in its many forms. This could be a useful and valuable resource.

8 Canadian Friends Service Committee

The information in the Historical Outline of *Organization and Procedure* pertaining to the Canadian Friends Service Committee is outdated, and CFSC contacted Discipline Review Committee to inquire about plans for an update. Indeed, other Friends have also contacted us with similar concerns. We have determined that attempts to update the Historical Outline in a piecemeal fashion would create additional problems. We suggest that the Historical Outline should be addressed by the *O&P* Rewrite Committee when it is formed.

Discipline Review Committee

Changes to Organization and Procedure June 2017

The following tables summarize the four texts brought forward for First or Second Readings

CYM / RM Minute	O&P section	Section title	Readings
RM 2016.11.17	2.8	Minutes (addition of “minute of record”)	First Reading CYM 2019
CYM 2018.08.14– 16	5.3	Formation and Laying Down of Half-Yearly Meetings	First Reading CYM 2019
RM 2016.11.22 CYM 2018.08.31.2	6.10	Camp NeeKauNis Committee	<i>First Reading CYM 2018</i> 2nd First Reading CYM 2019
RM 2016.11.27	6.13	Contributions Committee	<i>First Reading RM 2017</i> <i>Second Reading CYM 2018</i> 2nd Second Reading CYM 2019

Guide for this report:

“O&P” refers to Organization and Procedure.

SOURCE: the Yearly Meeting or Representative Meeting year, month, and minute number (for example, 2016.08.27 or 2016.11.27)

DRC: Notes from Discipline Review Committee

~~Strikethrough~~ is used to indicate text that is being removed from O&P

Underline is used to indicate text that is being added to O&P

{text in brackets was moved to this paragraph from another paragraph in O&P}

Please note that sections coming for second reading will not show these mark-ups unless otherwise noted

Minute of Record (term) — First Reading

SOURCE: RM Minute 2016.11.17: *Discipline Review Committee was asked to add the term “Minute of Record” to Organization and Procedure and to discern when its appropriate use. DRC proposes the following definition to be added to Section 2.8 Minutes as a new paragraph following the first paragraph or at the end of the section.*

In Canadian Yearly Meeting a “Minute of Record” is a minute approved at a Meeting for Worship for Business that records a particular or significant decision or action, and is intended for use in other contexts (for example, other Monthly, Half-Yearly, or Yearly Meetings, wider Quaker bodies, and non-Quaker organizations) to define the Meeting’s position on a particular issue at a specific time.

5.3 Formation and Laying Down of Half-Yearly Meetings – Procedure – First Reading

SOURCE: CYM Minutes 2018.08.15–16 and 5.3“Formation and Laying Down of Half-Yearly Meetings.” After the formation of Atlantic Half-Yearly Meeting was approved, Discipline Review Committee was asked “to revise *Organization and Procedure* to reflect the process developed in forming Atlantic Half Yearly Meeting.”

Half-Yearly Meetings are established on the initiative of the Yearly Meeting acting in accordance with a request from two or more Monthly Meetings, or when a larger unit wishes to divide. In all such cases the Yearly Meeting will appoint a committee to be present to assist in the organization.

When two or more Monthly Meetings discern that they are ready to unite as a new Half-Yearly Meeting, each Monthly Meeting approves a minute to this effect. These minutes are forwarded to Canadian Yearly Meeting, which will appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to assist in this process.

Depending on the circumstances, the Ad Hoc Committee to Form a New Half-Yearly Meeting may choose to visit with each Monthly Meeting and/or individual members of the monthly meetings. When there is a clear intent to move forward, the following process may be followed.

- 1 Each Monthly Meeting names one person to serve on a Nominating and Support Committee. The task of this Committee is to discern a Friend willing to serve as Clerk of the new Half-Yearly Meeting, and to support that Friend until either the Half-Yearly Meeting is established and a date set for its initial meeting, or a decision is made to lay the process down.
- 2 The initial meeting of the new Half-Yearly Meeting is conducted according to the normal format for a business meeting (see chapter 2). At this meeting the new clerk and the name of the new Half-Yearly Meeting are affirmed, and a process initiated to choose additional officers and committees. The clerk will send a letter containing this information to the Ad Hoc Committee on Forming a New Half-Yearly Meeting and to Canadian Yearly Meeting requesting recognition as a Half-Yearly Meeting.
- 3 Once recognized by Canadian Yearly Meeting, the new Half-Yearly Meeting will hold its first Meeting for Worship for Business. The establishing minute from this meeting will name the constituent Monthly Meetings and list the names of the clerk and other Friends serving the Half-Yearly Meeting with their terms. The minutes of this initial business meeting should also include the Canadian Yearly Meeting minute recognizing the new Half-Yearly Meeting.

Meetings may choose to add further levels of discernment and approval to any stage of this process.

The dissolution of a Half-Yearly Meeting will similarly be arranged with the approval of the Yearly Meeting ~~and~~. Any rights and property vested in the Half-Yearly Meeting shall be transferred to the Yearly Meeting (see Section 6.6).

6.10 Camp NeeKauNis Committee – Terms of Reference – First Reading, CYM 2018

SOURCE and STATUS: RM 2016.11.22 and CYM 2018.08.31.2, and Terms of Reference of the Camp NeeKauNis Committee from O&P 2002. Revised by Discipline Review Committee, April 2017; amended by Camp NeeKauNis Committee May 2017. Camp NeeKauNis Committee drafted the original of this section. DRC worked with them to produce a finished piece with a brief historical introduction, and brought it forward for First Reading at CYM 2018. After comments from Friends, the two committees were asked to bring a revised First Reading. The historical introduction has been dropped; those details will be incorporated into the Historical Outline (Section 1.1–10). No further changes were made to the Terms of Reference.

6.10 Camp NeeKauNis Committee

The terms of reference of the Camp NeeKauNis Committee are:

1. To nurture the spiritual life of all attenders through its programs and the various activities undertaken.
2. To arrange needed programs as are advisable and desirable, and find the necessary personnel to make these programs effective and influential.
3. To be conscious of the interpretative influence of Camp NeeKauNis for those who are not members of the Religious Society of Friends.
4. To co-operate with Canadian Yearly Meeting and other Quaker bodies when NeeKauNis facilities are needed in carrying out their mutual endeavours.
5. To work with the Canadian Yearly Meeting committees that have shared responsibilities and policies, including Finance, Personnel Policy, and Education and Outreach.
6. To work with Canadian Yearly Meeting Trustees on common concerns including negotiating insurance, preparing annual risk assessments, and advising on policies and procedures (for example, “Safe Nurture of Vulnerable Persons in our Care”).
7. To maintain the physical facilities in a state of good repair and to develop facilities as need arises.
8. To be aware, in all of its activities, of the Committee’s responsibilities to the natural environment.
9. To adhere to relevant provincial regulations regarding the running of a residential camp.

6.13 Contributions Committee

SOURCE AND STATUS – RM 2016.11.27, RM Minute 2017.06.16 and CYM 2018.08.31.2. *DRC was asked to work with Contributions Committee to bring forward a new section in Organization and Procedure articulating the responsibility of individuals to support CYM financially. This text was approved for First Reading in June 2017. When it was brought forward for Second Reading at CYM 2018 changes were requested. DRC was asked to bring a revised Second Reading to CYM 2019.*

Contributions from individuals are both necessary and in right order for our Society. Canadian Yearly Meeting receives annual contributions in the form of quotas from the monthly meetings, but this support is not sufficient. Additional funds are needed to meet the complex financial needs for CYM-in-session and for continuing work during the year on behalf of all Friends in Canada. Individual members also have a responsibility to support the Yearly Meeting.

Contributions Committee is responsible for developing and implementing strategies to request financial support from members and attenders. The Committee's role, in conjunction with Canadian Yearly Meeting Finance Committee and the Canadian Yearly Meeting Board of Trustees, is to establish procedures and approaches that will place and maintain CYM on solid financial footing.

Contributions Committee ~~will~~ meets and conducts business primarily by telephone or other electronic means. The Committee's mandate is to:

- Help Friends recognize how their contributions support and strengthen links throughout CYM to create a stronger sense of community ~~and family~~;
- Ensure donation practices comply with relevant privacy legislation and are convenient and respectful of the needs of members and their varying abilities to contribute;
- Propose, implement, and publicize new strategies for making approaches for donations, maintaining relevance as technology and membership change;
- Work with the CYM Clerks and other Friends serving Canadian Yearly Meeting to develop fund-raising strategies and produce supporting educational materials;
- Ensure that contributors are appropriately thanked on a regular basis;
- Report to Representative Meeting and Canadian Yearly Meeting as required.

EPISTLE SUMMARIZING COMMITTEE

France Yearly Meeting

Quakers in France remind us that times are tough. Climate change, migratory dramas, Brexit and terrorism were raised as some issues. France is a very secular society where the military industry is very influential. However, the Quaker movement does not give way to despair. Using quiet diplomacy Quakers provide safe space for dialogue, listening while building relationships of trust, and spreading messages of peace and truth. Quakers in France have confidence their efforts will contribute to the transformation to a non-violent society. There was also singing and

a play with much *joie de vivre* expressed by the children. They wish us the folly of believing that the world can be transformed.

Australia Yearly Meeting

Friends traveled, in some cases for days, to get to AYM in New South Wales. Their young people also express the distance difficulties and the Yearly Meeting structure as not optimal for their participation. They also have found technology helpful to communicate more easily over the distances. In the lecture: An Encounter between Quakerism and Taoism in everyday life the speaker found that Quakerism resonated with Taoism, Confucianism and Buddhism. He spoke to the need to live your faith in daily life, simplicity, discipline; balancing faith and practice. This message spoke to many Friends and led to more understanding of their Asian neighbours. Q.S.A. Continues to work in many areas in Africa, India, South and South-East Asia and on First Nations concerns. The Spirit is moving in the Yearly Meeting and there was a sense of tenderness as they dealt with contentious issues.

Central European Gathering

Fifty-four people from 14 Countries attended Central European Gathering in Budapest Hungary. Friday proved to be information overload, and it was an overwhelming and an emotionally intense day for many as they discovered the different intuitions about the meaning of non-violence; but discovered a unity in finding ways to build peace. This sometimes involves humor or using social media to connect to young people. As often mentioned in these Epistles the children and their evening program brought joy to the gathering.

321nd session of North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative

Friends gathered with the theme “Speak through the Earthquake, Wind and Fire” from John Greenleaf Whittier’s poem “The Brewing of Soma:”

Thy coolness and Thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm!
also referencing 1st Kings 19: *Jezebel seeks the life of Elijah—An angel sends him to Horeb—The Lord speaks to Elijah, **not in the wind nor the earthquake nor the fire, but in a still, small voice—Elisha joins Elijah.***

The Executive Secretary of Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) gave a talk titled “Gracious calling, ordered lives: the faith and practice of Friends in the political maelstrom.” She noted that the world is hungry for spiritual life lived both externally and internally, demonstrating how FCNL’s work proceeds from a spiritual basis. Her talk left us with a sense of hope for “repairing what is broken in our nation.”

141st session of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

Iowa Yearly Meeting met at Scattergood School and Farm to explore the theme of: “Being Centered in an Uncentered World.” The love and care of God is at the center of our being and all Creation. By staying open and responsive to this Light within, we find the path and hope to navigate these changing times. We are looking to the future of Scattergood School and Farm with an investment in faith to expand our mission. We ask our Friends everywhere to hold our Yearly Meeting and Scattergood staff in the light. IYM sends you the love we were able to experience together and we look forward to hearing how the Spirit has been moving among you.

12th Pacific Northwest Quaker Women's Theology Conference

Eighty-four women gathered for spiritual enrichment and fellowship exploring the theme “Answering that of God in Everyone.” Friends attended from programmed and unprogrammed meetings and a few from other faith traditions. Pondering and naming “that of God” we sensed the timelessness of the struggle to trust the voice of God as it is uniquely revealed to us. Our common ground as Quakers was honoured, but also we looked back to the obstacles to trust and understanding that programmed and unprogrammed Quaker women had to overcome as they first found the way to shared fellowship in the Pacific Northwest. Our invitation is to see that of God in others and ourselves. Women of different faith traditions talking, laughing, crying, and walking together. We look forward to taking the joy of inter-Quaker fellowship into the future.

Inaugural Annual Session of Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends (SCYMF)

This inaugural session begins with mixed emotions because of our forced leaving from Pacific Northwest Yearly Meeting, from emotions of grief and anger to love and joy. In light of the mixed emotions we feel the Spirit watch over our Meeting for Business. One example is the recording of Ministers. Raw feelings were exposed as some felt there had been a two-tiered system. We are a Christ-centred meeting even as we discuss and discern what that means. We have recorded ministers and happily transferred others. We feel it is possible to hold one way of understanding God and still allow others on a different path to travel with us. We move into a phase of exploration and continued discernment of how we are called to the Quaker way.

Cuba Yearly Meeting

Gibara Monthly Meeting hosted the 91st assembly of the Yearly Meeting of Friends (Quakers) in Cuba with the theme, “A church that grows in love and seeks the Truth,” inspired by Ephesians 4:15: “Rather, following the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.” We feel joy at the presence of brothers and sisters from New England Yearly Meeting, with whom we have built a “Bridge of Love” for the past twenty-six years, responding to the Voice of God. For us, this Bridge is a symbol of what humanity can do to build a world of peace, justice, unity, and love. We created a minute which opposes the measures taken by the government of the United States to limit the interchange between these our faith communities.

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns

During the 2018 Friends General Conference Gathering in Toledo, Ohio, we came together in joy, in sorrow, in uncertainty, in hope, in worship, in service, and above all, in faith that God will guide us. We began in the 1970's as the “Committee of Concern,” because it was not safe to name the group more explicitly. We have members who came of age before Stonewall, members who have grown up in the transformed world of the 21st century, and friends in between. Over the years it has become harder to fill our committee positions, and so we have had to adapt a much-reduced committee structure. We hope this paring back will make room for new growth. We are deeply grateful for the reciprocity of support from the many Quaker communities and organizations of which we are a part and who have grown to not only accept, but celebrate our lives and work.

Ireland Yearly Meeting

We cherish the wide range of views and theological approaches held within our Society. It has been at times bewildering and painful as we try to reconcile our very different views about same sex marriage with the friends that we love and care for. Our primary concern following our discernment to allow same sex marriage where Preparative or Monthly Meetings feel able to witness this, is to ensure that all the members of our society are able to continue their individual faith journeys in a way that they feel brings them closer to God. We have tested our procedures

around discernment and have taken comfort from the soundness of Quaker methods that help us deal with difficult issues that divide us. Our experience reminds us of what others in far more difficult positions of violent conflict have and continue to struggle through, to arrive at peaceful resolutions; and it increases our admiration and empathy for those on that path. It is, in fact, Love that has been the dominant message emerging throughout the year. We have a loving God, love our neighbour, love our environment, love ourselves with all our faults and allow ourselves to be courageous and in that way we love and serve God.

New England Yearly Meeting

We sit on lands once cared for by Abenaki ancestors and appropriated by European settlers centuries ago. We are queer and straight, physically challenged and able-bodied, trans- and cis-gender, are descended from the peoples of most continents of our globe, and are of various income levels. We affirm our commitment to the life of the Religious Society beyond our Yearly Meeting, and we grieve that the US government prevented our Cuban Friends from joining us this week. We are struggling with our own contribution to the white supremacy that has formed a blood-drenched thread in the fabric of this country. And we are afraid for our future: the future of the earth that our domination is making uninhabitable and the future of our society, whose government manipulates us into fear by its lies and dysfunction. In dynamic tension with our affliction is our love and commitment to each other. Reports have begun to reveal the extent to which the orientation of our yearly meeting manifests the culture of white-centeredness and middle-class values in which we sit. We must accept and acknowledge that real healing is long-term, spiritual work. The cross must be taken up daily. We are tearing apart and rebuilding a ship at sea that may not look like the one we came here in, but it will be built with the strong timbers of our tradition. Gathered in the Eternal Now, in this turbulent week we have known experientially the rock—the inward teacher, the inward Christ, the little bird—upon which we can rely.

Uganda Yearly Meeting

More than 250 Quakers gathered from Uganda, Kenya & Rwanda at Sibuse Friends Church, from which Quakerism originally spread to Uganda. Our theme has been, “I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” (Isaiah 41:10) We discussed other topics including Stress Management, Quakerism, HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis, Gifts of the Holy Spirit, Armour of God, and Church Planting. We had group discussions on Missions, Evangelism, Discipleship, God as a commodity of Trade, Cult/Occult and other topics. We conducted an open-air crusade in the nearby Muslim-dominated and alcoholic bar infested Munamba Trading Centre. We have received tens of miraculous responses from “converts” who gave their lives to Jesus Christ. We prayed for the “delicate” political situation in East Africa—especially in Kenya, the ever-rising refugee crisis in South Sudan, the terror from Somalia, Burundi, other parts of Africa and the rest of the world. We come away from our Yearly Meeting refreshed and convinced of the truth that an unwavering faith can withstand the test of time.

New Zealand Yearly Meeting

Tēnākoutou, Tēnā koutou, Tēnā koutou

We acknowledged the indigenous people of this rohe (region); Kai Tahu and Kati Mamoe. Music and song of many kinds contributed to our sense of unity in the Spirit. Departed Friends were acknowledged with a waiata tangi (song of lament). We heard the music of the (ydaki) (didgeridoo) of the Yolgnu of north-east Arnhem Land. We were told the Spirit lies dormant in the ydaki until it is awakened when played, drawing up the voice of the Earth. We worshiped through the experience of voice and instrumental pieces composed on the themes of Walking

Cheerfully, Simplicity, Truth, Justice, Equality, and Peace. Visiting Friends from Australia Yearly Meeting, Britain Yearly Meeting, and North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) in the United States were welcomed. Rosie Remmerswaal reflected in her presentation that “the truth has its own power, let it go through you. You can’t do it wrong together in this time and in these places.”

Steve Fick (Ottawa MM), Elizabeth MacInnis (Toronto MM), Clive Doucet (Ottawa MM)

FINANCE COMMITTEE

We continue each spring with our long-term role of reviewing the draft Audited Financial Statements for Canadian Yearly Meeting and communicating with the Auditors regarding any concerns. We then recommend approval of the Audited Statement to the Trustees of Yearly Meeting. For the past 13 years we have had the excellent help of the CYM Treasurer, Anne-Marie Zilliacus, who has led this review.

However this past year has been a transition year as it was our last year to have a CYM Treasurer. Now the CYM Accountant (an expanded position from the previous Bookkeeper job), along with the CYM Secretary will do the review and analyzing and reporting to Finance Committee. Creation of a Transition Plan to effect a smooth change to this new arrangement has been a major focus of the committee this past year. We looked at all the roles and responsibilities in the finance structure and figured out how they were going to be accomplished with the change in personnel. This is a work in progress as we need to monitor what is working and what needs tweaking in our new structure.

As a cost reduction strategy we are looking at ways to simplify our Financial Statements, to reduce the expense of the annual Audit. We are looking to see if there are some Funds that are depleted or out-of-date that could become line items in more general budgets, to reduce the complexity of the financial statements. This would have the additional benefit of making the Financial Statements less complex and easier to understand.

Speaking of being out-of-date, we are aware that the section of *Organization and Procedure* for CYM Finance Committee (section 6.7) is very outdated. We ask the CYM Clerk to put this revision on the CYM agenda.

And finally, we are short committee members and would encourage anyone who is interested in CYM finances and would like to serve the Yearly Meeting in this capacity to contact CYM Nominating Committee or any of the members of Finance Committee to find out more details. We meet twice a year, once in person and once by teleconference.

Fran McQuail (Kitchener Area MM)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Nominating Committee met in Ottawa amid warnings of floods but with beautiful sunny skies. We are a small group from across the country and find it a joy to work together. We met in May rather than April this year to give Meetings more time to respond to our call for nominations.

Nominating Committee wants to thank all those Meetings and Committees who have responded to our requests for Friends to serve. We hope everyone serving will all have the experience of a Committee of Joy.

We continue to have vacancies and encourage Friends interested in serving CYM to be in touch with us through your Meeting. We can work with you to find a suitable fit for your skills and interests.

We plan to make the opportunities for service on a Committee more visible to Friends through the use of the CYM Facebook page, *The Canadian Friend* and other media. There are descriptions of the work of Committees on the CYM website as well.

We want to remind Friends that we need to know if someone serving wants to be re-nominated after their first 3-year term. There is a list of Friends from your Meeting eligible for another term that we include in the nominations package.

We are sending out a second request for nominations to try to fill some of the outstanding needs of CYM. We will be preparing a slate of nominations to bring to CYM in Winnipeg this summer.

Heidi Dick (Calgary MM)

PUBLICATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Highlights:

- Communications improvements:
 - Upcoming upgrades to Quaker.ca
 - Developing an email newsletter – sign up here: <https://bit.ly/2L7NuhW>
- Opportunities to contribute to our work:
 - Seeking two Friends to join the committee
 - Developing an advisor network of Friends with website- and domain-admin-related expertise (email pubcom-clerk@quaker.ca if you have talents to offer)
- Discernment regarding copyright status of Quaker.ca and intellectual property provisions of our contracts for services
- Logistical reminders:
 - Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups are reminded to send any updates to their Meeting times and locations to editor@quaker.ca so that Quaker.ca listings (<https://quaker.ca/contact/find-a-meeting/>) can successfully help Seekers and Friends new to your area find you
 - Key contact info:
 - editor@quaker.ca - website changes and *The Canadian Friend* articles
 - pubcom-clerk@quaker.ca - contact regarding committee business

Visioning

At our in-person meeting in Fall 2018, we undertook a 5-year visioning process. We have aspirations to make Quaker.ca and our publications more welcoming and accessible to seekers while better connecting enriching the lives of those who are already Friends. In this discernment process we found ourselves faced with many questions about who our publications and digital communications should be trying to reach, and the challenges of balancing the need to keep heavily engaged Friends fully informed, the importance of privacy, and the desire for greater

accessibility to seekers and newer Friends for whom CYM structures, processes, acronyms, etc are unclear.

A clearer overall CYM vision for the future would be of great assistance to PubCom in further refining and prioritizing our work. We would also benefit from further conversations with Education & Outreach Committee regarding our overlapping mandates.

The Canadian Friend

We continue to work with Tim Kitz of Refreshing Words (and Ottawa MM) in the role of CYM Editor. Our current plan is to publish three issues of *The Canadian Friend* per year. Information about the upcoming themes and deadlines is posted to the [TCF web page](#) as it becomes available.

Quaker.ca

The CYM Editor also edits the Quaker.ca website. All information to be posted on the front page of Quaker.ca is now directed to the Editor (editor@quaker.ca). We continue to work with Glen Newbury of Islandside Studio (based in Toronto) and Bruce Dienes of Capflex Networking and Annapolis Valley MM on maintaining our technological infrastructure (website, email, and domain management). In addition to day-to-day editing and maintenance, we have solicited proposals for website redevelopment from several web design firms; at the time of writing, we are in the process of finalizing a contract for services to undertake this work.

Committee Membership & Advisor Network

We thank Mylène diPenta (Annapolis Valley MM) and Anne Trudell (Peterborough MM) for their service on the committee, and are seeking two new Friends to serve in their place. We would particularly benefit from representation from Friends from Ontario, Quebec, and the Atlantic provinces.

We are currently working to build a network of advisors - Friends with skills in various technical areas who might not feel led (or have time to commit to) serving on the committee, but would be happy to provide advice and/or assistance on specific technical issues. Friends who feel led to contribute in this way are encouraged to contact clerk Maggie Knight at pubcom-clerk@quaker.ca.

Email Newsletter

Out of our Fall 2018 visioning process, we decided to create an email newsletter which can help to connect Friends. Our intention is initially to pilot an enewsletter a few times a year which can serve as a notification of major new content posted to Quaker.ca, including registration for gatherings. While our current plan is to focus this enewsletter on inreach (that is, connecting Friends who are already part of CYM), it is possible that this effort could later be expanded to include an enewsletter for seekers (which would allow people to sign up on Quaker.ca for information for people new to Friends, such as learning opportunities such as the online courses offered by Education & Outreach).

We undertook meaningful research regarding what enewsletter program to use, bearing in mind Friends' concerns regarding data security and jurisdiction. We selected the platform CyberImpact (similar to the better-known MailChimp, but based in Canada) for this pilot effort. We hope to have the first email newsletter out to Friends in summer 2019.

Friends can sign up to receive the email newsletter here: <https://bit.ly/2L7NuhW>

Intellectual Property

Friends serving on our committee raised concerns about existing contract for services language regarding intellectual property rights (regarding who owns and can profit from content). We have worked to develop language to make Quaker.ca and *The Canadian Friend* content available via Creative Commons Attribution-Share-alike 4.0 Licensing, except where an author of said content chooses to retain their intellectual property rights. Our hope is that this will allow content to be more readily shared and reposted for non-commercial purposes, while recognizing that appropriate attribution should be given.

Canadian Quaker Learning Series (CQLS)

CQLS produces pamphlets such as those of the annual Sunderland P Gardner lectures. Winnipeg Monthly Meeting is now in its second year of stewarding the work of CQLS.

Since CYM-in-Session 2018, CQLS distributed Steve Fick's Sunderland P Gardner lecture pamphlet, and edited, produced, and distributed Arthur Larrabee's SPG lecture pamphlet.

Organization of Committee Work

We continue to meet every two months as a full committee via GoogleHangout, with subcommittees meeting on their own schedules. We collaborate via email and use the task management Asana to help keep us organized. We are making extensive use of GoogleDrive for sharing and filing agendas, minutes, and other documents associated with our committee's work.

Yours in service and Friendship,

Maggie Knight, (Vancouver Island MM) Clerk of PubCom, on behalf of the committee:
Catherine Novak (Vancouver Island MM), Robert Kirchner (Edmonton MM), Anne Trudell (Peterborough MM), Mylène diPenta (Annapolis Valley MM), and John Samson Fellows (Winnipeg MM)

QUAKER ECOLOGY ACTION NETWORK

A group of Canadian Quakers came together in Winnipeg in 1999 around environmental concerns to form the loose structure of Quaker Ecology Action Network (QEAN), which met only during CYM-in-Session and had generally no continuing functioning between Yearly Meetings, except as led by individual Friends (of whom the late Bill Curry was one of the most active). Following the Consultation and Renewal (CnR) report of 2007, QEAN's position within CYM was not formalized and CYM's environmental concerns were to be officially addressed through Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC). CFSC has not been able to have a strong environmental concern due to staff and financial limits, so has delegated same to its membership in KAIROS. As a further result of CnR, CYM's membership in the US-based Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) was also not supported. A representative was usually officially named, but the position was not funded for travel. CYM has retained membership in the several branches of KAIROS and named representatives, though again not funded travel.

During this whole period, an unmoderated QEAN listserv managed by John Scull and hosted on the QEW site has remained active, and it is generally agreed that it has considerable value to Canadian Quakers as the main way we have to communicate what we are doing as individual Quakers within our own meetings and communities. As far as is known, no meeting carries a

strong Quaker environmental/ecological witness. Individuals do work strongly within their own areas carrying different aspects of concern for the Earth and Creation. QEAN continues to meet informally during CYM with a varying group of Friends and usually brings a report to the floor of CYM as a result of Special Interest Groups and its own meeting times.

At the time of writing (April 2019), in light of the current CYM financial and personnel situation, members of QEAN who responded don't see a feasible way to make a CYM-wide environmental/ecological Quaker witness more formal. We are not in agreement as to whether this is desirable, even in light of the truly critical spiritual and physical climate change emergency that is now obvious. The volunteer CYM Carbon Coordinator position has not been filled and it is uncertain what its role might be. We await further Light within our Yearly and Monthly Meetings. We trust there is room for this Light to burst forth in Winnipeg in August.

The current named representative to KAIROS Environmental Justice stream is Ruth Walmsley of Vancouver MM, and to QEW is Carol Bradley of Annapolis Valley MM.

Carol Bradley (Annapolis Valley MM)

STATISTICAL SECRETARY

This is my first report as CYM Statistical Secretary and it has been an interesting process collecting the information that gives a picture of the numerical state of our Meetings and Worship Groups. I have especially enjoyed having contact with Friends across the country.

I am grateful to John Dixon for the helpful advice he provided when he handed over, and I am most appreciative of all the useful files he included.

Some interesting statistics emerge; for example we have a total of 1,355 Friends involved in Meetings and Worship Groups. Our membership total is 1,007, with 356 being counted as "uninvolved", so we have 651 "involved" members. The total of regular Attenders is 599.

What does this say about the interest in and willingness to commit to membership?

Interestingly there are 105 members, whose membership is held in a Meeting other than the one where they regularly worship. This may say something about the mobility in our country.

As in previous years, the age categories for both members and attenders can be problematic for some Meetings. In one situation all Friends attending were assigned to the 36-59 category which gave an overall boost to the numbers in that category. In another Meeting the age categories were estimates. Is this a question we want to review as a Yearly Meeting?

As matter of interest, two Yearly Meetings where I had access to the statistics, Britain YM and Ireland YM, do not separate Friends into age categories. However they do track men and women in separate columns. In Britain anyone over the age of 16 is counted as an Adult Friend; in Ireland it is 18.

Next year when sending out the initial mailing, I have been asked to include all MM Clerks, as well as the MM contacts, who are responsible for completing the Stats form. I trust this will help those Meetings, who bring the report to their MM for approval, to know the deadlines for

submission. Leaving it to be included with the request for *Documents in Advance* letter, which is sent from the CYM office is not feasible, as it does not allow time for collating.

I am very grateful to those Friends who did submit according to the deadline set this year and others were helpful in explaining extenuating circumstances, which necessitated delay.

I was able to complete the bulk of the collating before leaving for vacation. However I am writing this, close to the CYM deadline for *Documents in Advance*, as there have been loose ends to tie up.

I am hopeful that next year those Meetings who need time to include this in a business meeting, will plan to do so in late February or early March, so that a mid-March deadline for submission can be respected.

Virginia Dawson (Yonge Street MM)

STATISTICAL REPORT

CYM STATISTICAL REPORT: CALENDAR YEAR 2018 - ATTENDANCE BY GROUP

Monthly Meeting	Name	Type of Group	Avg. attendance M for W	FDS	Frequency of meetings
Arg <i>Argenta</i>	Argenta	Main Body	8		weekly
	Nelson	Worship Group	7		twice a month
AV <i>Annapolis Valley</i>	Annapolis Valley	Main Body	7		weekly
Cal <i>Calgary</i>	Calgary	Main Body	10		weekly
	Lethbridge	Worship Group	3		monthly
Col <i>Coldstream</i>	Coldstream	Main Body	13		weekly
Cow <i>Cowichan Valley</i>	Cowichan Valley	Main Body	12		4 times a month
Edm <i>Edmonton</i>	Edmonton	Main Body	10		weekly
Hal <i>Halifax</i>	Halifax	Main Body	6		weekly
	Antigonish	Worship Group	7		twice a month
	South Shore	Worship Group	10		twice a month
Ham <i>Hamilton</i>	Hamilton	Main Body	21	4	weekly
	Cambridge	Worship Group	4		monthly Sept-May
IBC <i>Interior British Columbia</i>	Interior BC	Main Body	14		twice a month
	Lillooet	Worship Group	2		weekly
	Prince George	Allowed Meeting	0	2	inactive
KA <i>Kitchener Area</i>	Kitchener Area	Main Body	16	3	weekly
	Guelph	Worship Group	?		met once
	Lucknow	Worship Group	12		twice a month
Mon <i>Montreal</i>	Montreal	Main Body	15	1	weekly
	Laurentian	Worship Group	3		weekly
	Mid-week	Main Body	5		weekly
NB <i>New Brunswick</i>	Eastern Shore	Allowed Meeting	4		intermittent
	Fredericton	Worship Group	12		twice a month
	Fundy Friends	Worship Group	5		weekly
	Prince Edward Island	Allowed Meeting	7		weekly
	Sackville	Worship Group	6		weekly
	Saint John	Worship Group	5		twice a month
	Woodstock-Houlton	Worship Group	10	1	weekly
Ott <i>Ottawa</i>	Ottawa	Main Body	35	2	weekly
	St. Lawrence Valley	Allowed Meeting	7		weekly
Pel <i>Pelham (Niagara Quakers)</i>	Pelham	Main Body	7		weekly
Pet <i>Peterborough</i>	Peterborough	Main Body	15	4	weekly
Pra <i>Prairie</i>	Regina	Main Body	0		in abeyance
Sas <i>Saskatoon</i>	Saskatoon	Main Body	7		weekly
SJ <i>St. John's WG</i>	St. John's	Worship Group	6		twice a month
SP <i>Saanich Peninsula</i>	Saanich Peninsula	Main Body	10		weekly
TI <i>Thousand Islands</i>	Thousand Islands	Main Body	10		weekly
	Toronto	Main Body	49	3	weekly
Tor <i>Toronto</i>	Downtown	Worship Group	3		monthly
	West End	Worship Group	1		monthly
	Vancouver	Main Body	23		weekly
	Coquitlam	Worship Group	0		laid down
Van <i>Vancouver</i>	North Burnaby	Worship Group	12	2	monthly
	Fraser Valley	Worship Group	0		laid down
	Victoria Friends	Main Body	30		weekly
VI <i>Vancouver Island</i>	Victoria (Wednesday)	Worship Group	15		weekly
	Mid-Island	Allowed Meeting	8		twice a month
Ver <i>Vernon (now Interior BC)</i>					
Win <i>Winnipeg</i>	Winnipeg	Main Body	28	1	weekly
Woo <i>Wooler</i>	Wooler	Main Body	7		twice a month
	Prince Edward Count	Worship Group	4		twice a month
Yar <i>Yarmouth</i>	Yarmouth	Main Body	18		weekly
	Manitoulin Island	Worship Group	0		in abeyance
	Yonge Street	Main Body	18	5	weekly
YS <i>Yonge Street</i>	Little Britain	Worship Group	2	3	weekly

CYM STATISTICAL REPORT CALENDAR YEAR 2018
Full names of meetings are given in Attendance by Group Report

	Arg	AV	Cal	Col	Cow	Edm	Hfx	Ham	KA*	IBC***	Mon	NB**	Ott	Pel
Membership Summary														
TOTAL Dec. 31, 2017	32	15	28	42	14	18	54	43	44	21	19	37	137	13
Corrections (2017 report)			2			-1					-2			-1
Additions:														
Birth/adoption										1			1	
Request			1	1							2		1	
Transfer in					3					1	1	1	2	
Losses:														
Death	1					1			1	3		1	1	
Resignation			1									1		
Removal				6								3		3
Transfer out							1							
TOTAL MEMBERS 2018	31	15	30	37	17	17	53	42	43	20	20	33	140	9
Membership Profile														
Birth to 18 (Young Friends)				1	2			1		2		3	2	
19--35 (Young Adult Friends)	6		2	1			2	4	3	2	2	1	18	
36--59 (Adult Friends)	6	7	10	3	3	9	19	13	40	1	4	4	40	2
60 and over (Senior Friends)	19	8	18	32	12	8	32	24		15	14	25	80	7
Uninvolved (of above)	20	8	18	17	5	4	21	22	8	5	5	4	62	3
Members from other MMs														
Attendees Profile														
Birth to 18			2					8	4	1	4		3	2
19--35			2				1	2		1	9	3	1	1
36--59		2	7	1	1	2	6	9	28	2	3	11	20	6
60 and over	9	2	3	4	6	3	4	8		5	5	23	12	6
TOTAL ATTENDERS 2018	9	4	14	5	7	5	11	27	32	9	21	37	36	15
Total Involved in MMs														
Total Involved in MMs	22	12	31	25	22	18	46	50	71	26	47	75	118	22
Marriages														
Marriages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0

* No age profiles given. ** Estimated age profiles

*** Interior British Columbia (IBC) was Vernon MM

MAIN SUMMARY

Columns include main body of meeting and groups under its care

	Pet	Pra	Sas	SJ	SP	Ti	Tor	Van	VI	Win	Woo	Yar	YS	TOTAL
TOTAL Dec. 31, 2017	9	3	12	0	16	24	111	73	88	12	15	84	54	1018
Corrections (2017 report)		1			1						-4	1		-3
Additions:														
Birth/adoption														2
Request					3	0	2	1	2	2		1	1	17
Transfer in								0	1					9
Losses:													1	
Death		1							5	1				15
Resignation						0	2		1					5
Removal														12
Transfer out					1			1	0					3
TOTAL MEMBERS 2018	9	3	12	0	19	24	111	73	85	13	11	86	54	1007
Membership Profile														
Birth to 18 (Young Friends)						1	4	7	8			3	3	37
19--35 (Young Adult Friends)		1	3		1	7	17	10	16			25	7	128
36--59 (Adult Friends)		1	4		5	7	26	32	26	5	1	26	25	279
60 and over (Senior Friends)	9	1	5		13	9	64	24	35	8	10	32	19	523
Uninvolved (of above)	0	0	0	0	5	11	24	15	5	4	7	64	19	356
Members from other MMs	2	0	2	3		7	12	21	0	3	4	2	1	105
Attendees Profile														
Birth to 18	4				1		2	25	5	0		3	2	66
19--35	1	1		3		4	9	31	10	10	2	1	2	94
36--59	2			5	1	4	29	27	18	18		11	17	230
60 and over	14		1		1	4	32	17	16	16		9	9	209
TOTAL ATTENDERS 2018	21	1	1	8	3	12	72	100	49	44	2	24	30	599
Total Involved in MMs	32	4	15	11	17	32	171	179	129	56	10	48	66	1355
Marriages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

REPORTING AND CLEARNESS

World Council of Churches – An Ecumenical Opportunity for Quakers

The Beginnings:

The World Council of Churches (WCC) had its beginnings in the late 19th and early 20th century through a number of conferences; Life and Work, Christian Education, World Student Christian Federation, World Mission conferences, Faith and Order, Edinburgh World Mission conference in 1910, the Ecumenical Synod of Constantinople call for a League of Churches in 1920. These conferences all called for a World Council of Churches. Finally, in 1937 Life and Work and Faith and Order agreed to establish the WCC. Its official organization was deferred by the outbreak of the Second World War until August 1948, when representatives of 147 member churches, including Canadian Quakers, assembled in Amsterdam to constitute the WCC. Now the WCC is a “worldwide fellowship of 349 global, regional, national and local churches seeking unity and common witness and service.”

Key Achievements:

Councils of Churches and other ecumenical bodies in different parts of the world have created a worldwide ecumenical network. Its members can reflect, work and share together on theological, spiritual, and programmatic issues.

The Roman Catholic Church, although not a member of the WCC, has a regular working relationship with the WCC and is a full member of many national ecumenical organizations, including the Canadian Council of Churches.

Another achievement is recognizing the importance of inter-religious dialogue and relations with other faiths.

Since its creation, the WCC has supported and inspired church participation in struggles for justice, peace and the integrity of creation. Examples include the Programme to Combat Racism, which supported the struggle against apartheid in South Africa; efforts to bring about an end to the long civil conflict in Sudan; the reunification of North and South Korea; the defence of human Rights in Latin America; development of the accompaniment program, for example to Palestine; the campaign to end poverty; and the efforts of the climate change working group to emphasise the Churches responsibility for the integrity of creation.

Members from different church traditions work together on the WCC's committees and commissions, whether it is Faith and Order or Public Issues. Sharing views and convictions on faith, life and witness may enrich understanding and reflection by the Churches.

On its web site, the WCC states that it is directing its energies to doing what it does best and is uniquely equipped to do. The WCC has set this vision out in a statement entitled Toward a Common Understanding and Vision of the World Council of Churches adopted by the Central Committee in 1997. One key understanding is that the WCC is a “fellowship of churches which have committed themselves to make visible their unity in Christ and to call one another to a deeper expression of that unity through worship and common life, witness and service to the world.”

Challenges:

The main challenge I see for the WCC is how to be inclusive and relevant to the peoples of the world in the midst of an array of ecumenical movements, large mega churches and many faiths. The WCC is a large organization with many Commissions, Committees and Programs. It is difficult to get a full picture of the various initiatives other than the one or two in which you are involved.

Shared Understanding and Vision:

The WCC was at the beginning of the ecumenical movement and its vision is to evolve as the ecumenical movement evolves and changes. New forms of ecumenical commitment are emerging: young people are finding their own expressions (and thus assuming ownership of) ecumenism and the church. The WCC sees its role to address global ecumenical issues and support the ecumenical movement as it evolves. The WCC strives to function in ways that ensure maximum representation and participation by member churches, listens to the voices of all, gives priority to reflection and deliberation on the key issues facing the churches and communities in the world today.

Membership in the WCC implies that the churches should recognize their solidarity with each other and give assistance to each other in case of need.

CYM Involvement in the WCC:

CYM was instrumental in the beginnings of the WCC. CYM is one of the six Canadian denominations who are members, who are members of the Canadian Council of Churches and of the WCC. The WCC Relations Committee meets by teleconference with at least one face to face meeting each year, usually in Toronto.

Shared Vision over the Next Five Years:

It is my vision that the WCC's role would continue to focus on the struggles for justice, peace and the integrity of creation. That the "unity in Christ" would focus on a spiritual understanding of the wonder and mystery of the universe. We are each a part of that universe along with all others who share the planet. To me, this would be more in the spirit of love than on struggling to agree on a common belief. It is also part of my hope that the WCC would work with new and emerging movements – interfaith and secular – which share the concern for justice, peace and the integrity of creation.

Can CYM remain involved and help the WCC member churches realize that there is that of God in everyone, and that we do not need to all believe in the same thing as long as we seek to live out the love that Jesus showed when he was alive?

As we move forward in an increasingly globalized world we need to continue to review the implications of our membership in the WCC and discern how best we can work with others.

The next WCC Assembly will take place in 2021, I hope that CYM will appoint a representative to attend that Assembly who will work with the WCC as it seeks to address global ecumenical issues and support the ecumenical movement as it evolves.

The WCC sends out a weekly email newsletter. You can ask to receive this by contacting news@wcc-coe.org. More information is available on their web page at www.oikoumene.org. I would be pleased to respond to questions. You can reach me at annemitchell8@sympatico.ca or 416-533-8402.

Queries:

How is the Spirit leading us to continue to make a meaningful contribution to the WCC?

How do Quakers benefit from being connected to the work of the WCC?

Anne Mitchell (Toronto MM), CYM representative to the WCC, April 28 2019

REPRESENTATIVES TO WIDER BODIES

CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES - COMMISSION ON JUSTICE AND PEACE

The Canadian Council of Churches (CCC) Commission on Justice and Peace (CJP) provides a forum for Canadian churches to share information and concerns among those involved in ecumenical work on peace and social justice in Canada and the world. We have two face-to-face meetings per year and several conference calls. CJP has subgroups working on Faith and a Sustainable Economy, Faith and Public Life, HIV and AIDS, Sexual Exploitation in Canada, Peace and Disarmament, Poverty in Canada, Undoing Racism and Religious Freedom.

I am part of a subgroup currently in the midst of a three-year focus working on Peace: a) Militarization and b) seeking what contribution we might make on justice and peace in Palestine-Israel. Militarization - under the leadership of Project Ploughshares we drafted a letter urging the government of Canada to sign onto the **The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**. Although it was not worded as we Quakers might have done it was accepted by our CYM Committee of Clerks and approved by the CCC Board and sent to the Prime Minister.

The discussion on how to speak to the issue of justice and peace in Palestine/Israel is considerably more difficult to find common ground. Each of the churches was invited to submit a two-pager on their current engagement in the area. Only seven churches, including Quakers did so. We also had two useful documents from KAIROS who also sit at our table as a resource. We gave over about four hours to hearing members speak to their church engagement and looking for shared threads that might be further considered. The subgroup now has some new members and discussions continue. Whenever a public statement is issued it must be agreed on by all 26 churches - a considerable challenge.

It is a pleasure to work with this group with a common focus and seeking where we can speak with a shared voice. I learn so much from these conversations about other churches and the lens through which they engage and take action.

Consider visiting www.councilofchurches.ca

Carol Dixon (Ottawa MM), CYM Representative

FRIENDS UNITED MEETING

Friends United Meeting (FUM) consists of 37 Yearly Meetings and Associations of Friends from North America, Africa, the Caribbean, and Palestine. FUM works in global partnership with local Friends in each of these areas in support of schools/education at a number of levels (in Africa, Palestine, Belize, Jamaica), a play centre (in Palestine), a hospital (in Kenya), peace teams (in Africa, Belize and Cuba), and leadership development (in Africa). FUM also sponsors a number of North American ministries.

I was able to attend General Board meetings last October in Richmond, Indiana, and the first week in March at the Quaker Centre (site of the Belize Friends School) in Belize City. I hope to attend the board meetings in Richmond in June if I can do so inexpensively by incorporating that

work into another trip. My sense is that while financial support for FUM from CYM is quite moderate as compared to other member yearly meetings, our participation and voice on the General Board is both welcomed and valued.

One area of support that FUM is providing to Friends in Canada (at this point primarily in Montreal) is coordinating with CYM to provide support to African Friends living in Canada, who tend to be evangelical in their orientation.

Because the most recent board meetings were held at the Belize Friends School, I will mention a few things about this ministry that may be of interest. The mission of the school is to provide a second-chance education option for urban at-risk youth (roughly of junior high age by our standards) on the verge of failing within their school system. While the name of the school is still officially the Belize Friends School for Boys (in the process of being legally changed), the school is now a co-educational day-school for from 15 to 30 students, with a capacity to grow to perhaps 40. The physical plant of the school has its limitations, not the least of which is its site. Situated immediately adjacent to the Port of Belize (through which flows all of the oil and gas, and many of the other products, coming into the country), the tanker trucks pass by the front doors of the small school continually throughout the day, creating deafening noise and kicking up a great deal of dust and dirt, all of which comes through windows of the school that need to be kept open due to the heat. And while huge progress has been made on the building (largely due to the dedication of Dale Graves, husband of former FUM general secretary Sylvia Graves, who spent the last few years of his life engaged in that project), much remains to be upgraded. It remains important to the ministry, however, that the site is on the south side of Belize City, the poorest and most violent area of the country, where the need is so great. The site also houses the Belize Friends Centre which holds meetings for worship and is involved in a number of ministries in the city, including an anti-human-trafficking campaign funded in large part by the Canadian Friends Foreign Mission Board.

Further information about the school and its work will be presented at a SIG at CYM 2019 in which we will hear from both Adrian Bishop (Elaine's brother) who is currently a volunteer (a "living letter" in the FUM dialect) living on site at the school and working hard to ensure the integrity and development of the building and school programs, and FUM general secretary Kelly Kellum.

Jeffrey Dudiak (Winnipeg MM), CYM Representative

FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION - SECTION OF THE AMERICAS

Introduction

Come and see! That urgent call invited all of us to the Section Meeting to create transnational and local communities in which we love one another as Christ commanded us to love one another, and work together to feel ever more strongly connected.

These, slightly adapted, words from my pre conference materials were surprising as such explicitly Christological references would be more than rare in my monthly meeting. As expected our "Christian roots" were on full display throughout the conference.

As my role is to provide information both ways, from and to, I will proceed in an orderly manner describing my experience of attending the Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of

the Americas Meeting in Excelsior Springs, Missouri from March 21-24, 2019. I will also err on the side of too much rather than too little information. I also will avoid the use of any and all acronyms.

Purpose

The purpose of the Friends World Committee for Consultation is to encourage fellowship among all the branches of the Religious Society of Friends. In the Americas, the Quaker community extends from the Arctic to the Andes, spanning a rich diversity of regional cultures, beliefs and styles of worship. Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas offers programs that unite Friends across the hemisphere through Spirit-led fellowship. The meeting of representatives and others needs to be understood as both being a time of planning and accountability of this work itself. The theme "Come and See" continually reminded us that this blending of Quaker backgrounds is meant to be experienced and enjoyed by us first, so we, in turn, can invite others to "come and see" as well.

Roots

In 1937, after years of concerned work to reconnect a fragmented Quaker world, the Second World Conference of Friends created the Friends World Committee for Consultation "to act in a consultative capacity to promote better understanding among Friends the world over." Today, Friends from yearly meetings and groups in nearly 60 nations continue this work. Around the world there are four cooperating, autonomous Friends World Committee for Consultation Sections serving Africa, the Americas, Asia and the West Pacific, and Europe and the Middle East. Friends World Committee for Consultation's World Office is in London. Many of the Friends I met at the meetings are deeply connected and aware of this worldwide work and continue to attend plenary gatherings well after their role as delegate has ended. I also heard the descriptions of deep and abiding long distance friendships that are renewed at meetings of Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas.

Mission

Answering God's call to universal love, Friends World Committee for Consultation brings Friends of varying traditions and cultural experiences together in worship, communications, and consultation, to express our common heritage and our Quaker message to the world. This balance of worship, communications and consultation was found each day of the meetings. Every day was begun with a blended form of worship, with an optional non programmed worship before many of us had woken up. The business and education sections were also diverse in those that primary provided information, received information and those that were dialogue. I met in groups as small as four and the plenary sessions had almost 150 in attendance.

Vision

The Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas envisions a thriving and integrated network of Friends from the Arctic to the Andes, woven together in transformative faith, learning to love, listen, and witness. There is a healthy awareness that this a daunting task. Not even considering the challenges of diversity of culture, language and theology - the sheer distance is immense. While there are areas like the American Mid-West where different strains worship relatively near to each other, most appear to come from areas where it would take days of travel to drive to meeting of a tradition than their own. I would offer the notion that the goal need not be that we all have this direct experience individually in order for such gatherings and exchanges to benefit Quakerism as a whole.

Values

The Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas works within the following values: (1) Work under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, seeking God's will and assistance (2) Be peacemakers and reconcilers among Friends (3) Act on the testimony on equality as we seek to cross barriers of geographic distance, language, culture, racism, theology, gender, age and access to power and material wealth. What is striking as I look at these values from the perspective of a member of Winnipeg Monthly Meeting is while the values are easy to embrace, they are not often relevant. Explicit conflict of values are not common, peacemaking between Friends is rarely referred to and while we have some diversity (e.g. age) within our Meeting, it is nowhere near the kind of challenges that the Friends World Committee for Consultation meets in each aspect of its work. In this way the work can be a beacon and example of the importance and opportunities for this work in our own meetings that we may not even recognize.

Practices

In describing the practices, for illustrative purposes only, I will give a letter grade based on what I witnessed at the gathered meetings.

Build trust and fellowship among Friends from different traditions: B+ - this cannot happen without direct engagement on real matters and the recent meetings did not shy away from topics that have proven divisive in the past (e.g. women's reproductive rights). Again, it is the reporting of this for the vicarious experience of others that enables the work to extend well beyond a few days every two years.

Promote cross-cultural understanding by bringing together Friends of different ages, genders, nationalities, spiritual practices, and theological beliefs at gatherings and on committees: A - I give the A grade because of the aggressive, in the best sense of the word, work of the nominations committee. There is such a subtle but profound sense that they are neither assigning tasks for filling committees but trying to ensure the richest experience for all delegates. To this end they have developed a substantial new guide for the orientation of Representatives.

Provide opportunities for Friends to identify and work on common concerns, service, and action: B - Again, against the backdrop of such distances, the key way in which this is done is through the travelling ministry corps. This remains a relatively new and undeveloped program and the B grade is to allow room for fuller fruition.

Provide assistance with travel and other needs related to these encounters: A - These meetings cost money to attend and the financial challenges are not equally distributed, particularly between north and south. This reality is neither avoided nor sugar coated.

Maintain a website, electronic newsletter, and print newsletter: F - As the representative of Canadian Yearly Meeting it not my task to make sure I read the newsletter but to actually promote it and ensure Friends throughout our meeting have and make use of access. The letter grade reflects my effort to date and will be improved upon.

Collect and disseminate information about Friends' churches, monthly and yearly meetings, and groups: B - The scope and limitations in this work are difficult to determine. It is something less than all activities in all meetings. If nothing else I would strongly encourage to both have and display the "Finding Quakers Around the World" poster that puts our Canadian experience in

context. For instance - 49% of all Quakers live in Africa, Less than one third of one percent of Quakers live in Canada and Liberal Non Programmed Quakers are but a sliver of the 377,557 Quakers tallied worldwide.

Provide Spanish and English translations and interpretation: A+ - I give the A+ because this is done extremely professionally by volunteers. I would estimate that more than 25% of the attendees had Spanish as their first language and this, we were reminded, is significantly higher than the past when a handful of Latin Americans were responsible for, essentially, providing their own. The work and effort of the coordination let alone the actual translation was immense and the entire flavour of worship, business and education is improved. Even dinner table conversations draw upon those who are led to attend these meetings because of their interest and ability in languages. For me, as I had both studied and used Spanish when I was younger, I now know just enough that I can't put my mind in neutral when Spanish is spoken and as such, found the constant translation to be demanding and draining. The whole approach can be summed up as "yes, it's hard but that is why it's important." A significant portion of meeting time was given to recognizing the efforts in translation both past and present.

Maintain diverse representation on governing committees and program groups, and transparent stewardship of organizational resources: INC - As I stated above the effort of the nominations committee is commendable, it will take me time to have a sense of whether or not the Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas is meeting these challenges. There is nothing to say we are not as the Clerk is from Cuba, worship leadership was very diverse and I was told that the new clerk of the finance committee, that I am on, does not speak any English.

Plan

The Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas has been working for the past three years to implement its Strategic Plan.

Goal 1: To increase understanding among Friends from different traditions, connecting Quakers of all traditions in the Americas.

I fear I have a giant amount of work cut out for me in Canadian Yearly Meeting as nothing in my eight years a Quaker had prepared me to fully grasp the reality of diversity within Friends.

Goal 2: To communicate and transmit the inspiring power of our work in order to involve more Friends in Friends World Committee for Consultation's ministry – transforming lives and faith communities through cross-branch understanding

The very helpful Representatives handbook is also my instructions and responsibilities. The "out of sight, out of mind" experience of Quaker diversity appears to be common, but surely not universal, within Canadian Yearly Meeting. When role call was taken at the start of the section meeting, I was asked to "stand up for your Yearly Meeting" which felt like a rather demanding task in the moment. I trust I will have time on the agenda of Canadian Yearly Meeting to begin my input into this work. Several Friends approached me to say their disappointment that our Meeting in Session was moving to Winnipeg as they had enjoyed attending when we met relatively close to their home in the USA.

Goal 3: To find new sources of funding to sustain the staffing and programs necessary to advance our mission

Fundraising always starts right in front of you. I am thankful for Canadian Yearly Meeting's Financial Support of my attendance. However, many of the representatives from the Southern Hemisphere need support. This is why they encourage monthly meetings to either make a budget line or hold a fundraising event to contribute to these purposes. Alex and I have committed to a \$150 donation per year as long as I am the representative. Alex paid her own registration and housing which amounted to over \$700 and covered her own transportation which totalled over \$400. We would like to ask both Canadian Yearly Meeting and Winnipeg Monthly Meeting to make a donation directly to Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas in order to enable them to continue their ongoing work. The Section of the Americas receives well over half of its income from individuals, about a fifth each from yearly and monthly meetings and churches, and the remainder from investment income. We heard at the meetings that two unexpected bequests have been applied to create a position of an "Advancement Officer" so we may well hear about these needs again.

Representatives

Representatives serve as liaisons between the Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas and their yearly meetings and the wider Quaker world. Representatives participate in Friends World Committee for Consultation decision-making at Section Meetings and populate Friends World Committee for Consultation's committees.

Responsibilities

As your representative I am expected to support local initiatives and encourage observance and celebration of World Quaker Day on the first Sunday in October.

I am to encourage attendance at Friends World Committee for Consultation events and raise awareness of the need to provide financial support to the Friends World Committee for Consultation.

I am to help my yearly meeting communicate information to Friends World Committee for Consultation, e.g. news, yearly statistical updates and changes in representative appointments regarding the ongoing work.

I am to serve on a committee and have accepted a nomination to finance.

I am to participate in a regional group. Representatives of Canadian Yearly Meeting have the choice of choosing the most logical region. I have been invited to join the North High Plains Region which includes Northern Yearly Meeting, Iowa (Friends United Meeting) and Iowa (Conservative) Yearly Meeting. With no budget, these regions need to draw upon their creativity to further the work in this area.

Connections

The Quaker offices at the United Nations headquarters in New York and Geneva could not exist without a worldwide body of Quakers. Their legitimacy, important work and recognition is predicated on the existence and function of the Friends Worldwide Committee for Consultation.

The Friends Committee on Scouting serves to encourage and promote the faith, history and testimonies of Friends through religious education programs for members of the Scout and Girl Scout/Guide movements. Such a connection seems foreign to my experience in Winnipeg Monthly Meeting but is integral in the life of many Friends.

Questions

I am asked to “ensure that Friends World Committee for Consultation is in your yearly meeting's and monthly meeting's budget.” Can we talk?

I am to identify Friends in my yearly meeting who might like to receive Friends World Committee for Consultation mailings or be interested in giving to Friends World Committee for Consultation. Does such a list exist?

A few years ago there was effort to mobilize a travelling ministry corps in Canada. My experience in response to offering my name was zero contact. Was this the experience across the country? Is there anyone currently holding responsibility for this work?

Can you pray for Friends in other parts of the world and for our Friends World Committee for Consultation staff and volunteers, for our ministry among Friends, for seekers, and for the work of the Holy Spirit in the world?

It appears we have the right to send four representatives to Friends World Committee for Consultation (Section of the Americas) and I was the only person who attended. Is this because of a lack of success in nominations? Is it due to budgetary constraint? Are there other reasons at play?

I understand that there are separate nominations for Friends World Committee for Consultation (Section of the Americas), which meets every two years, and Friends World Committee for Consultation (which brings together all the sections) and meets every six years. Does this realize that a section meeting is held at the world wide meeting? Might we revisit that division?

Next

I hope to supplement this description of the ongoing work with both a table display and a time of storytelling where I take the principles outlined and offer what I “went and saw” when I was invited to “come and see.”

The 2021 Section of the Americas Meeting has not yet finalized its dates or location but the hope is that it would be in a south-western state such as New Mexico.

The 2023 Friends World Committee for Consultation will be held in South Africa.

Glenn Morison (Winnipeg MM), CYM Representative

KAIROS

NB: individual Quakers are invited to use and contribute to spiritual reflections: campaign 5. New videos which could be shown in your Meeting: see link in campaign 2.

Email from Matthew Legge of CFSC, March 4 2019 <matt@quakerservice.ca>

If there are KAIROS-related emails that pertain to issues CFSC is actively working on (civil liberties concerns in Canada, peace issues in DR Congo, Burundi, Israel/Palestine, synthetic biology, a federal Department of Peace, or Canada's involvement in the arms trade) please do copy me on them. ^[SEP]If it's related to environmental concerns, migrant justice, or Indigenous

rights issues I don't work on those so I don't need to be copied and I know Jenn participates in a coalition with KAIROS so she wouldn't need to be copied on anything related to Indigenous rights either.

Kairos Canada structure 2018

Steering committee - reps from Anglican Church, (Anglican) from its World Relief and Development Fund, Catholic Development and Peace, Christian Reformed, Evangelical Lutheran, Mennonite Central Committee, Presbyterian Church, CYM Religious Society of Friends, United Church, and additional members. **Committees answering to SC:** Finance, Nominating, Executive, Executive Director's Advisory Committee, Women Peace and Security **(WPS)** project steering committee (*see campaign 2*)

WPS and Kairos staff work with

1. International partners (together with Partnerships and Rights Circle): **see also 6 below.**

Ecumenical Voice for Peace and Human Rights, Héritiers de la Justice (DR Congo), Popular Feminist Organization (Colombia), South Sudan Council of Churches, Wi'am (Palestine, West Bank) – see activities in

2. Three circles of ecumenical collaboration and the Quaker reps on each circle
Partnerships and Rights (P&R) - David Millar, Montreal <fdmillar@gmail.com> 514 386-8421
Indigenous Rights (aka KIRC) - Rob Miller, Winnipeg <robmiller55@shaw.ca> 204 881-6177
Ecological Justice - Ruth Walmsley, Vancouver <ruth@cranberrycommons.ca> 604 298-9220
(*note: see also her report on the Ecological circle and her regional network*)

3. Regional networks of Kairos supporters (Facebook pages announce activities and gatherings): BC-Yukon, Cambrian-Agassiz (incl MB, Northern Ontario, Nunavut), Great Lakes-St Lawrence, Prairies North (AB, SK, NWT), and Quebec francophone partner [ROJEP](#) (*note: David Millar also serves a liaison on ROJEP coordinating committee. He will attend and report on May 2019 Kairos Atlantic, Atlantic Friends and St Lawrence Friends Gatherings, and Kairos meetings Toronto in June and Montreal in October*)

Kairos campaigns (advised by one or more Circles) and staffer responsible for each

(*note: my P&R Circle is involved in campaigns 2,3,6*)

1. Ecological justice – *see separate report to CYM 2019 by Ruth Walmsley*

<https://www.kairoscanada.org/what-we-do/ecological-justice> - "Faith and justice in a post-petroleum world", indigenous wisdom; limit fracking, tar sands and pipeline expansion. Handouts, updates and calls to action at <https://www.kairoscanada.org/what-we-do/ecological-justice>

Amelia Berot-Burns, KAIROS' Ecological Justice Coordinator aberotburns@kairoscanada.org. 416.463.5312

Ecological Justice Circle agenda items 2018

“reconciliation in the watershed”: educational materials, carbon footprint, global climate change and Canadian policy, end fossil subsidies, keep oil in the ground, protect the environment, mining justice/extractivism and gendered impacts, support women defenders/solidarity calls migrant rights in Canada, ratify ILO convention on Migrant Workers

2. Gender justice - Women, Peace, and Security + Gendered Impacts of Resource Extraction. Women of Courage tours in Canada with international partners, against extractivism, campaign for Canada mining ombudsman (*see news item at end*). Handouts, updates and calls to action. <https://www.kairoscanada.org/what-we-do/gender-justice>

New videos which could be shown in your Meeting: <https://www.kairoscanada.org/what-we-do/gender-justice/women-peace-and-security-videos>

Rachel Warden, KAIROS' Partnerships Manager: rwarden@kairoscanada.org. 416.463.5312

3. Migrant justice

Solidarity with refugees, immigrants, temporary farm and domestic workers, and diaspora communities, ILO conventions and fair Canadian immigration policy. Handouts, updates and calls to action at <https://www.kairoscanada.org/what-we-do/migrant-justice>

Connie Sorios, KAIROS' Migrant Justice and Asia Partnerships Coordinator csorio@kairoscanada.org. 416.463.5312

4. Indigenous rights

(under leadership of aboriginal partners in KIRC) UNDRIP (*see news item at end*), FPIC, “we are all Treaty people”, Winds of Change campaign to implement the TRC calls to action, and Blanket Exercise, gendered impacts of resource extraction on Indigenous women, solidarity with Indigenous-led struggles such as justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and equity for First Nations' children. Handouts, updates and calls to action <https://www.kairoscanada.org/what-we-do/indigenous-rights>

Dawn Maracle, KAIROS' Indigenous Rights Coordinator dmaracle@kairoscanada.org. 416.463.5312

Indigenous Rights Circle agenda items 2018:

follow-up Arctic Policy Framework
draft Civil Disobedience Policy
ongoing campaign on TRC 60 2I, 9394
relations with indigenous peoples
distinct role of KIRC?

5. Prophetic witness

theological and biblical study, how our faith connects to acts of justice and indigenous rights in the world. We create ecumenical prayer and worship resources on rights issues that can be integrated into Sunday services or meetings. Read Kairos New Covenant and Spirited Reflections <https://www.kairoscanada.org/what-we-do/prophetic-witness> contributions by Friends are welcomed.

6. Partnership and Rights Circle 2018

Jim Davis and Rachel Warden (Kairos staff)
Rula Odeh
Jenna Bratvold
Wendy Gichiru
Bob Holmes
Leigh Kern
David Millar
Guy Smagghe
Elana Wright

P&R agenda items 2018 (*with international partners)

- * implement Global Partnership strategic plan, follow up previous Women of Courage tours
- * advise on Women, Peace and Security Project
- * revise Israel-Palestine policy
- * proposed Church Leaders delegation to Palestine
- * draft Peacekeeping Policy for Steering Committee
- * partner review

April 2019 news items

related to Kairos campaigns: mining ombudsman, and Bill C-262 affirming aboriginal rights

Liberals deliberately disempower mining ombudsman *(summary by David Millar)*

Since 2013, 90,000 Canadians have petitioned for mining accountability overseas, in the [Open for Justice](#) Campaign, led by KAIROS and the [Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability](#), demanding inquiries into corruption, pollution, and flagrant violations by Canadian companies of human and aboriginal rights (including murder) — and held more than 65 meetings with Members of Parliament in ridings across the country. The Trudeau government finally appointed a mining ombudsman in 2018 but deliberately avoided giving her power to compel evidence, and has now shelved further action until after the election. Could election financing by the mining lobby be an explanation? Similar delays, for the same reason, can be seen in recognizing aboriginal rights within Canada.

Read details of this story in <https://business.financialpost.com/commodities/mining/lobbied-to-death-liberals-face-backlash-over-corporate-responsibility-ombudsman>
<https://www.ledevoir.com/politique/canada/551710/ottawa-nomme-une-ombudsman-pour-veiller-a-l-ethique-des-entreprises-canadiennes-a-l-etranger>

'Reconciliation should not be partisan': Ministers call for end to Tory stalling on Indigenous rights bill

John Paul Tasker · CBC News · Posted: Apr 11, 2019

Forwarded by Jennifer Preston <jennifer@quakerservice.ca>

Attorney General David Lametti and Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Carolyn Bennett are demanding the Conservative leader in the Senate put an end to procedural manoeuvres by his

caucus that threaten to derail legislation to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in Canada.

In a letter to Conservative Senate Leader Larry Smith, Lametti and Bennett said "stall tactics" employed by Conservative senators — such as adjourning debate, a tool used to punt a vote or delay further discussion — are **blocking Bill C-262** from getting a timely study at the Senate's Aboriginal Peoples committee.

UNDRIP recognizes the right of Indigenous peoples to legal equality, self-determination, the preservation of their languages and control of their traditional lands, among other rights.

"Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples cannot and should not be subject to partisanship," the ministers said. "We write to you not only as ministers of the Crown ... but as Canadians who share a deep commitment to advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples ... "We are calling on your Senate caucus to cease its procedural delay tactics and allow this bill to move to the appropriate committee."

Smith and Conservative party whip Don Plett have sought to push off a vote on sending the legislation to committee. Some Conservative senators, including Sen. Scott Tannas, have expressed reservations with the bill — particularly with a provision of UNDRIP that calls for "consent" from Indigenous peoples before a project on their traditional territories can go ahead.

"I support the UNDRIP in its entirety, with the exception of the word that gives me heartburn, which is 'consent,'" Tannas said during a recent Senate debate.

"What does that mean? ... If it turns out that consent equals a veto or anything approaching a veto for Indigenous people over activities and projects affecting their traditional lands, then we need to know that before we vote on this bill and bring it into law," the Alberta senator said.

Indigenous activists have long pointed to UNDRIP as a means to oppose pipeline development that would run through their territories, pointing to the passage that guarantees "free, prior and informed consent" as something akin to a veto. Other scholars insist that UNDRIP does not grant Indigenous communities a final say.

The letter to Smith comes a day after the House of Commons unanimously passed a motion — with the support of Conservative MPs — urging the upper house to pass "at the earliest opportunity" both Bill C-262 (the UNDRIP bill) and former Conservative MP Rona Ambrose's legislation that demands mandatory sexual assault training for judges. Both bills have been before the Senate for more than a year.

Indigenous leaders, including Assembly of First Nations National Chief Perry Bellegarde, have condemned the Senate delays as "undemocratic."

With only seven sitting weeks left before the summer recess, the pressure is on the Liberal government to pass bills before an expected fall election.

If the UNDRIP bill — which could have wide-ranging effects on Canadian law if it's fully implemented — doesn't pass by the end of June, it will die on the order paper. That would mean new legislation would have to be introduced in the next Parliament to implement UNDRIP.

While there is a sense of urgency given the constrained parliamentary timelines, the Aboriginal Peoples committee is already in the midst of two other "pre-studies" of government legislation that soon will go before the Senate: Bill C-91, the Indigenous languages legislation, and Bill C-92, Indigenous child welfare reforms.

Since the Aboriginal Peoples committee will be busy with that work for the next several weeks — and since Parliament isn't sitting for the next two weeks — the committee's review of the UNDRIP bill can't happen until sometime in May.

Complicating matters, the legislation is actually a private member's bill first introduced by NDP MP Romeo Saganash, who was also part of an international team that helped craft the declaration more than a decade ago. The government's representative in the upper house, Peter Harder, has fewer tools at his disposal to ensure a non-government bill is passed.

While the Liberals promised to implement UNDRIP in the last election campaign, then-justice minister Jody Wilson-Raybould announced in 2017 the government would simply back Saganash's bill rather than introduce separate government legislation.

But Wilson-Raybould herself has said de-colonizing Canadian law would require more than UNDRIP's adoption. "As much as I would tomorrow like to cast into the fire of history the Indian Act so that Nations can be reborn in its ashes, this is not a practical option," she said in a speech to the AFN general assembly in 2016.

"Simplistic approaches such as adopting the United Nations declaration as being Canadian law are unworkable and, respectfully, a political distraction to undertaking the hard work actually required to implement it back home in communities."

David Millar (Montreal MM) CYM Representative (see structure 2, and campaign 6)

KAIROS - ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE (FORMERLY SUSTAINABILITY) CIRCLE

The KAIROS Ecological Justice Circle (EJC) brings together one rep. from each of the Canadian member churches, to work on advancement of social and environmental justice, based on the understanding that the earth is an integral part of God's creation, and that we must live within Earth's material limits. Our work is inspired by eco-theology, and influenced and informed by Indigenous wisdom.

This is the first year of my second 3-year term (Fall 2018 - Spring 2021) on the KAIROS EJC. Our EJC has kept in touch via conference calls in June & September of 2018 and January of 2019. There was a day-long all-Circle Gathering held May 29, 2018 in Toronto; I was the only person to participate via Skype, which worked quite well.

Our EJC has been tasked with developing a "civil disobedience policy", with the goal of defining Kairos's position in relation to CD, and provide a framework for Kairos members considering engaging in CD. This project was sparked by Jennifer Henry's visit to the 'Faith Day of Action' on Burnaby Mountain, at which some people were arrested for civil disobedience. I volunteered to be part of a working group to help develop this. Our sub-committee has met via conference call in June, August, September and January. The work is ongoing.

In addition to the civil disobedience project, our EJC 'strategic plan program priorities' include:

7. 'Reconciliation in the watershed', including watershed education,
8. reduction of ecological footprint,
9. global climate change commitments,
10. Canadian climate policy including targets, ending subsidies, carbon pricing and increasing environmental protection,
11. economic advocacy to keep oil in the ground,
12. mining justice,
13. just transition,
14. solidarity calls from communities experiencing acute climate crisis or resisting oil exploitation.

In addition to my involvement with the Kairos EJC, I am actively involved with the BC-Yukon and Metro Vancouver Kairos networks. I am helping with plans for a BC-Yukon Kairos Network Gathering in Vancouver on April 26-27, where I will be co-leading a workshop on "Contemplative Justice".

Ruth Walmsley (Vancouver MM), CYM Representative

KAIROS - STEERING COMMITTEE

Introduction

This is my second term representing CYM on the Steering Committee (SC) of KAIROS and my second year as Chair of the Steering Committee. As well as the ten representatives from the member delegations there are also four members at large, at least two of whom are Indigenous representatives. Decision making is by consensus and we continue to carefully and prayerfully discern our way forward to ensure all voices are heard when faced with concerns where a decision has to be made.

KAIROS Programs

KAIROS Blanket Exercise (KBE) continues to attract new requests – both domestically and globally. In 2018 there were 75 Memoranda of Understanding on delivering the KBE to constituents, with an estimate of 200,000 beneficiaries. As well there were 1100 one-off KBEs. In January 2019, 150 requests came in through the centralized booking system. The Trademark application for the Blanket Exercise has been accepted in Canada. Small groups can still access the Blanket Exercise at low cost by contacting KAIROS. The KAIROS Winds of Change campaign focuses on TRC Call to Action 62, also known as Education for Reconciliation.

Women, Peace and Security Program's aim – with partners in South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Palestine, Colombia and the Philippines - is to increase the role of women in peacebuilding and human rights. KAIROS is facing some challenges with the Philippines and Palestine/Israel portions of this program. KAIROS is planning a delegation visit to Palestine in November 2019. Stephen Bishop is being nominated to this delegation through Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC).

KAIROS is developing a power and privilege training program, advocating for an increase in quality and quantity of Canadian aid, developing an action resource on ecological justice,

organizing an Atlantic Gathering in May 2019, and supporting migrant workers re migrant justice policy.

KAIROS Steering Committee has also developed a Code of Conduct document to ensure professional standards are followed for risk management, work place sexual harassment, working with vulnerable adults and children, and security procedures – in Canada and overseas. A draft will be sent out to member churches for their review and comment.

KAIROS is also developing a Civil Disobedience Policy. A draft discussion document will be distributed to SC members and their churches for consideration.

KAIROS has three 'circles' made up of representatives from its members. The circles are ecological justice; indigenous rights; partnerships. Quaker representatives are Ruth Walmsley, Robert Miller and David Millar. These representatives will be reporting separately on the activities of their circle. A circle fest will be held in May 2019.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee is at the end of May 2019.

Further information on KAIROS programmes and resources can be found on the KAIROS website at www.kairoscanada.org

I would be pleased to respond to questions or concerns about KAIROS and its work. I can be reached at annemitchell8@sympatico.ca.

Ad Hoc Working Group on Finance

This Working Group has been set up to review CYM finances and where changes and cuts can be made to the funds drawn down from the General Fund. This review will include any funds allocated to KAIROS. CFSC pays the membership to KAIROS. At the Representative Meeting at the end of 2018 it was decided that CYM would take over full responsibility for the KAIROS membership and perhaps seek a reduced membership fee from KAIROS. This was deferred to the ad hoc working group on finance and it was also noted that any proposed change related to KAIROS would require consultation with the CYM representative on the KAIROS Steering Committee and the Circles. KAIROS is open to a discussion on membership fees.

As we discern our future role with KAIROS, it might be useful to discern how Quakers benefit from being involved in the work of KAIROS and what Quakers can contribute to the work of KAIROS.

Anne Mitchell (Toronto MM), CYM Representative

KAIROS - Circles Gathering and Steering Committee Meeting, June 6-8 2019

This was a powerful three-day gathering – with about 60 people from across Canada, including indigenous Elders, and representatives from KAIROS partners in the Congo and Guatemala. More information can be found on the KAIROS website at www.kairoscanada.org.

In this brief report I will focus on four issues, supplementary to my report submitted in April: 1) changes in the KAIROS Blanket Exercise (KBE); 2) and 3) Women of Courage Program, Peace and Security in the Philippines and Israel/Palestine; 4) funding.

1) KBE: This program has grown exponentially in the last two or three years. Last year there were over 1000 Blanket Exercises conducted with community groups, social service agencies, institutions, corporations and government departments -in Canada. In addition, there are close to 100 partnership agreements with organization who receive training and roll the Exercise out with their staff and constituencies. Requests have also been received from the US, parts of Latin American, Australia and Ireland. The KBE has been trademarked in Canada. A cost is negotiated for conducting the Exercise (and within partnership agreements) depending on the number of participants, the preparations required, and the organization or institutions ability to pay. Key is ensuring that Indigenous Elders and facilitators are compensated fairly for leading the Exercise. KAIROS has assured me that small community based organizations, with small budgets, can still access the KBE at minimal cost. We continue to work with the model that Indigenous Elders and facilitators lead KBE teams and need to be compensated.

2) Women of Courage partner in the Philippines: Global Affairs Canada recently informed KAIROS that they could not use Government funding for the partner in the Philippines. While the government says it is related to a changed context, this may be related to the Philippine government's falsely targeting of human rights organizations as promoters of armed conflict because the partner is promoting human rights in their country. KAIROS has assured the partner that KAIROS will strive to raise the funds from other sources and honour our commitment to the partner over the next 3.5 years.

3) Women of Courage partner in Palestine: The NGO Monitor has been raising the question "Why is Global affairs funding a NGO that promotes Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) on its website?" KAIROS is not promoting BDS and Global Affairs funds do not go to promote BDS, but rather to support peace and human rights. KAIROS is monitoring the situation between NGO Monitor and Global Affairs and responding to Global Affairs questions as they arise. There has been some correspondence in the Hill Times. KAIROS is organizing a delegation from its member churches to visit the partner in Palestine. Quakers, through CFSC, have nominated Stephen Bishop as a member of this delegation.

4) Funding: Should CYM take over the responsibility of funding KAIROS from CFSC and feels that the current annual payment is too much in comparison to support to other outside bodies, CYM can give KAIROS six months' notice of its intention to reduce its annual funding. I have informed KAIROS of CYM's review.

Anne Mitchell (Toronto MM), CYM Representative

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Introduction

The World Council of Churches (WCC) had its beginnings in the late 19th and early 20th century through a number of conferences all calling for a World Council of Churches. Finally, in 1937, two of these bodies, Life and Work and Faith and Order agreed to establish the WCC. Its official organization was deferred by the outbreak of the Second World War until August 1948, when representatives of 147 member churches, including Canadian Quakers, assembled in Amsterdam to constitute the WCC. Now the WCC is a “worldwide fellowship of 349 global, regional, national and local churches seeking unity and common witness and service.”

I am the CYM representative to the WCC Assembly and currently serve on the Central Committee, nominated by the Canadian WCC member churches, as well as being the chair of the Canadian Churches WCC Relations Committee.

I am supported in this work by Gale Wills, Lesley Read and Gini Smith appointed by CYM in 2016.

Current initiatives

The last central committee meeting took place in Geneva in June 2018. I was a member of the Public Issues Committee. We reviewed draft statements on several topics and they were presented to the Central Committee for approval. My report, to CYM, on this and other WCC events from the Central Committee, was published in the winter 2019 issue of *The Canadian Friend*.

The WCC is celebrating its 70th anniversary. WCC members were invited to write brief reflections from their denominational perspective. We offered a brief story about CYM and its ecumenical beginnings with the WCC and the CCC. This piece was also published in the winter 2019 issue of *The Canadian Friend*.

One of the WCC’s main programs – Pilgrimage to Justice and Peace – has invited member churches to let the WCC know what they can contribute in this context. There is a blog on the WCC web page where you can read some of the contributions. The Canadian churches decided that they would contribute stories. They are published on the KAIROS website, and we will seek to get them on the CCC and WCC sites as well. We provided stories solicited from Quaker meetings in Canada about our work with refugees.

The WCC speaks and acts on a number of issues, for example, climate change, refugees, immigration, poverty and on recent events in many parts of the world. You can see these statements on the WCC website at www.oikoumene.org.

Next Meetings

The Central Committee will meet in Geneva in March 2020. This will be the last meeting where I will be representing CYM at the WCC. It is important to transition to a new CYM representative who can attend the next Assembly to be held in Karlsruhe in southern Germany in June 2021.

The WCC sends out a weekly email newsletter. You can ask to receive this by contacting news@wcc-coe.org. More information is available on their web page at www.oikoumene.org. I

would be pleased to respond to questions. You can reach me at annemitchell8@sympatico.ca or 416-533-8402.

Anne Mitchell (Toronto MM), CYM Representative

STATE OF SOCIETY REPORTS

ANNAPOLIS VALLEY MONTHLY MEETING

In 2018 Annapolis Valley Monthly Meeting experienced substantial challenges, deep sharing at our meetings for worship, and interest from new attenders.

From the beginning of 2018 we began to examine whether we are sustainable as a Monthly Meeting, due to withdrawal of some active members. In April our Ministry and Counsel organized a retreat to reflect on our Meeting and envision its future. It was attended by 6 members and attenders of our Meeting. The retreat began with worship sharing on the following queries:

- What does the Meeting mean to me?
- What about our Quaker Meeting sustains me?
- Do I feel the Meeting could better support my spiritual journey? How?
- Is participating in the meeting a joy? a burden? safe or unsafe?

We looked at the existing structure and responsibilities of AVMM and labelled each item as optional or essential, assuming AVMM remains an independent Monthly Meeting.

We held worship sharing on the following queries:

- What would be the ideal structure for sustaining my spiritual journey?
- Do I feel AVMM is sustainable into the foreseeable future? Why or why not?

We brainstormed structural options for the Meeting and wrote them on a flip chart. In the end we agreed that for the time being we should keep our Monthly Meeting but reduce its functions. At our Meeting for Worship for Business in June we approved Ministry and Counsel's recommendation that:

- 1) in order to reduce the burden of service on the few active members, in September 2018 Annapolis Valley Monthly Meeting lays down a number of positions and committees including: Meeting House Committee, Truth and Reconciliation Committee, Quaker Study Committee, Outreach Committee, and Representative to Wolfville Area Interchurch Council, and
- 2) That the function of the those subcommittees be fulfilled only as individual members and attenders feel led to initiate and co-ordinate the work, with the approval of the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

A few members have continued to organize weekly meetings for worship, held in members' homes throughout the eastern part of the Annapolis Valley. These meetings have been rich with ministry and sharing. We open with an inspirational reading which often inspires ministry. After an hour of 'silent' worship during which ministry is frequent, we close the meeting and invite participants to share further thoughts from the silence. Most do share, and this is a rich time of getting to know one another in the things that are deeply important in our lives. Following that we introduce ourselves by further sharing. The meetings for worship are central in our lives and in 2018 we have been joined by a few new attenders who are exploring Quakerism with our help.

On World Quaker Day we held worship sharing on the FWCC Sustainable Living Initiative.

In 2018 we continued our exploration of Quaker testimonies, including Simplicity, Equality, Peace, and Integrity. Three from our Meeting participated in CYM on-line courses and found the sharing with others across Canada enriching. These courses increase our understanding of Quakerism and help to strengthen local meetings. In the summer several of our members arranged to attend Meetings for Worship in Halifax and Nova Scotia South Shore, affording us the opportunity to strengthen Friendships and learn about different Meeting practices.

Our Truth and Reconciliation subcommittee

- attended events in Nova Scotia to build relationships and knowledge about local Indigenous issues;
- read and studied books and articles by indigenous writers and discussed them; and
- shared some of the learnings with the Meeting through a quarterly "Learn and Act" newsletter, as well as personal conversations.

Annapolis Valley Meeting actively supported the formation of the Atlantic Half-Yearly Meeting which was established in 2018, and actively participated in organizing the Atlantic Friends Gathering in May. We continue to cherish our relationships with other Friends in Atlantic Canada.

ARGENTA MONTHLY MEETING

Friends gather faithfully each week in Argenta to share deep and peaceful worship. There is little spoken ministry, yet we feel the connection in the silence that is the mystery of a Friends' meeting. The beauty of the natural world surrounds us.

Our Meeting house presents us with continued challenges as the building ages. Built on a shoestring budget as a student home for the Argenta Friends School in 1968, there seems to be no end to the issues that arise. We are grateful for the efforts of some dedicated volunteers that make it possible for us to continue to look after the building.

Our small group is content to gather, supporting each other in our individual lives, but not feeling called to greater action as a group.

We enjoy occasional pot-luck meals together.

The wider community of the Meeting continues to receive our Minutes and be with us in spirit when they cannot be with us in Argenta.

We are grateful for our Meeting community.

Nelson Worship Group

Our Group is small but undaunted. Whenever Friends are in town they attend. We have had a core of six attending our twice monthly Meeting. This past year a long-time Friend moved to Nelson and is now a regular at Meeting. We also have a few younger folks who come from time to time and perhaps will settle on our little Worship Group as a spiritual home. Additionally, our once monthly Meeting in Friends David and Tia's home, has one or two of their neighbours in attendance. We are grateful and enriched by these additions to our group. The presence of

new attenders requires the old timers to explain and reflect on our Quaker traditions and values. This is good.

As is mentioned every State of Society report, we are strengthened spiritually and socially by singing together before each Meeting and by sharing lunch afterwards. Or as the hymn, *Love will guide us*, says: share the song and share the silence, share the shade and share the light.

CALGARY MONTHLY MEETING

Calgary Monthly Meeting has grown steadily in numbers and in our spiritual understanding. Although still small, we often have 10 or more members and attenders at Meeting for Worship. More people are participating in the life of the meeting. We revived our Outreach and Social Action Committee, and a Library Committee to sort and catalogue our books and pamphlets. Our Children's Committee organizes Family Meetings every second month, which attracted up to 20 adults and children to participate in joint activities, resulting in rich worship sharing. Our Lethbridge Worship Group continues to meet every month or so.

One member spoke of how her active participation in the life of the Meeting has enriched her spiritual growth. In Meeting for Worship for Business, Meeting of Ministry and Counsel, and committees she experienced a deeper appreciation of how Quaker process shapes the community that nurtures us. The work itself became a joyful act of worship in community.

Several of us spoke of the power of Gathered Meetings in our Meeting for Worship. One person described the experience as a space where each of us lights a single candle and the whole room fills with light, or as if our hearts begin to beat to the same rhythm. Another member described the deep stillness and quietness that arises even in the middle of an active Family Meeting. Our meeting often has a sense of gatheredness within the Worship or Holy Silence that is maintained after the Meeting for Worship ends, often in a prolonged silence. Most First Days we continue the worship as we explore how spirituality plays out in the vicissitudes of our daily lives.

One of the most difficult parts of the year was the termination of membership by one of our long-standing and well-loved members and his death shortly after. It was a painful time for us as individuals and as a meeting. With much soul searching and shared Holy Silence, Calgary Monthly Meeting came through together, stronger and more connected. The experience deepened our understanding and trust in the Quaker Process.

Our annual retreat, in early March, focused on *Ways of Prayer: What is Prayer, and How Do We Pray?* We practiced prayer while walking, drawing, singing, and doing dishes. We held Worship Sharing to consider our experiences of prayer, using the letter *Prayer in Worship* (written by Continuing Meeting of Ministry and Counsel of Canadian Yearly Meeting). The lead-up to this retreat prompted Friends to dive into Quaker literature and videos on prayer. Our retreats are increasingly important to us, allowing us to devote time to explore, share, and practice Quaker ideas.

COLDSTREAM MONTHLY MEETING

Coldstream Friends Meeting is a small meeting where 12-15 worshippers meet weekly. Our group is cohesive and active in worship and business here and in social concerns beyond the Meeting.

After Worship each week, we have a discussion based on a quotation supplied, in turn, by each of our member/attenders. It is a practice that encourages us to better understand the Spirit and how it works in our own circle and in the world beyond.

Some new faces join us for Worship and we try to make them welcome. This year we welcomed one new member.

We, with our permanent building, have an established library that includes a fair diversity of authors and a good selection of contemporary and historic Quaker thought. Since the Meeting House is left open these books are accessible to all who enter and we have found that visitors respect, with little exception, the freedom to peruse these books.

This is such a quiet and beautiful place so it does attract people through the week who seek this stillness. Some of these people will venture in to our Meeting for Worship and others will comment in our guest book.

We have fun at our annual picnic and our Twelfth Night 'talent' show.

We sing and have potluck at least once a month. This is part of what cements our friendships.

A Coldstream Meeting Newsletter is published several times a year and is filled with happenings and ideas from our Meeting as well as information from the larger CYM circle. The newsletter has been a useful tool for us. We continue to support a website that we need continually to consult and keep up to date.

Our Ministry and Counsel sponsors a yearly retreat day in February. This year we explored the many aspects of forgiveness with presentations of audio/video, searching dialogue and sharing. *"Forgiveness is for yourself. It is the unclenching of the fist around your heart."*

We invited a guest who was knowledgeable on Israel/Palestine issues and we hosted the Interfaith Committee on Refugees when they sponsored a potluck meal that included many of the Middle Eastern area former refugees who have now settled in Canada. We continue to be part of this Interfaith Refugee Committee and continue to be active in sponsorship.

This year we formed a Truth and Reconciliation Response Committee to improve our understanding of the 94 Recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and to move these recommendations forward as we can.

Coldstream Meeting continues its care over the Canadian Friend's Foreign Mission Board and we continue support of CYM as we can.

COWICHAN VALLEY MONTHLY MEETING

Cowichan Valley MM meets First and Third Sundays in the St. Ann's Building at Providence Farm, Duncan and on the second and fourth Sundays at Ts'i'ts'uwatul'Lelum, Duncan.

In 2018, our usual attendance at meetings for worship averaged 12 people. We welcomed into membership three Friends who transferred from other Monthly Meetings.

The essence of our Meeting for Worship continues to be silence with occasional vocal ministry. After the silent worship, we regularly share after-thoughts, which often lead to discussions and leadings that have been inspired by the depth of the silent meeting. Insights often lead to actions on an individual or Meeting level. Following after-thoughts, we socialise over muffins and coffee.

In January, Cowichan Valley Quakers (CVQs) participated in a Quaker Faith and Practice study group, based on Marjory Reitsma-Street's work. In March, the Meeting was pleased to host the Quaker Peace Committee and CFSC staffer Matt Legg's public talk, held at the Duncan United Church. During the year, CVQs also held a study group at Ts'i'ts'uwatul'Lelum concerning Truth and Reconciliation.

We nurture our Meeting through our meetings for worship with attention to business, our study groups, and informally through individual friendships among members and attenders. We alternate meeting for business before and after worship. After a clerking workshop facilitated by one of our members in 2018, Friends feel more comfortable and competent to share clerking, recording, and other responsibilities. All CVQs feel more responsible for supporting the Clerk and Recording Clerk. We share responsibility for Pastoral Care, providing support when asked and respecting one another's need for privacy and autonomy. We will hold a Pastoral Care workshop in the spring of 2019.

We strongly feel that our involvement with community and our work with peace and social justice concerns reflect the spiritual life of our Meeting. Many CVQs are involved with social justice issues, including Truth and Reconciliation, Palestinian-Israeli relations, protection and restoration of the environment, diversity and inclusion, mental health and addictions, and support for people who are homeless. Among these initiatives are a monthly dinner and visit with people in need at the Duncan United Church, and attendance at several T & R events in the Cowichan Valley.

CVMM supports the wider Canadian Quaker community through participation of members and attenders in Canadian Friends Service Committee and Representative Meeting.

EDMONTON MONTHLY MEETING

2018 was a good year for Edmonton Monthly Meeting. We continued to enjoy the convenience and hospitality of the Strathcona Place Seniors Centre which has been our home for 5 years now. Our attendance has been stable and we are delighted with the continuing participation of some new attenders, although we very much miss Carmen Loiselle who fulfilled a long-held dream of moving to Saskatchewan last fall.

At the suggestion of our Ministry and Counsel Meeting, our Meeting held a series of pre-meeting sessions for the purpose of strengthening our understanding of Quakerism through the writings of early Quakers. With a similar intention, our Clerk introduced the practice of reading a brief extract on Quaker process at the commencement of our Meetings for Worship for Business. It is evident that there is a thirst for greater knowledge of our history and spiritual foundations.

In this age of electronic communication, our Meeting struggled with how best to communicate within and without Meeting. Eventually we settled on the following: an invitation-only Google group e-mail list for Meeting announcements, a website with a password protected portion for posting minutes and other reports such as our Finance Committee's reports, a public Facebook site to expand our online presence for outreach purposes, and an internal Facebook site for the exchange of information of interest to those who use Facebook (not all choose to). Coming up with this array took reflection and discussion but it seems to be working well.

Several members of our Meeting, and in particular our liaison for Indigenous Affairs, Dawn Parker, have been very engaged in the continuing effort to improve our connection with, understanding of, and support for the Indigenous community. Members participated in events around the city too numerous to itemize. We were proud to support Barbara Heather's attendance at a Pendle Hill conference: "Truth and Healing: Quakers Seeking Right Relationship with Indigenous Peoples." We thank Education and Outreach for helping to make Barbara's trip possible.

The Meeting held two events with a focus on prisons. Joy Morris (Lethbridge WG) of CFSC's Quakers Fostering Justice Committee visited our Meeting and presented a workshop on Penal Abolition. Miriam Gross, from the Mennonite Central Committee (and, incidentally, also the daughter of one of our members) gave an after-Meeting talk on opportunities for community prison visitation.

Habitat for Humanity commended our Meeting for its volunteer support; this recognition reflected the fact that there was participation by a significant proportion of our membership relative to participation from other, larger, congregations. We have also supported other charities in their efforts to combat homelessness and to assist the indigenous community. We continue to be active in local peace related events. Several members of our Meeting have helped a Georgian refugee with connections to Quakers through the Alternatives to Violence program.

Given our small numbers it is perhaps to be noted that we have three members and a young Friend actively engaged in Yearly Meeting committees. We acknowledge that that puts a significant demand on their time and consequently creates a challenge in finding enough others to help with our local needs. We also have many members who are dealing with family and other responsibilities, which also limits their ability to attend and be active in Meeting. We do our best to support each other through our trials and celebrate our triumphs. We are also exploring how best to use the gifts and resources present in our Meeting so that our community fulfills each of us without overwhelming any one of us. This is undoubtedly a challenge faced in many small meetings.

At a recent gathering (more on that in our 2019 report) members reflected on the importance of the Meeting community in their lives and a central theme was a sense of the divine and our joy in journeying together. We feel that through the year our Meeting has become closer and stronger and we hope to build upon those connections going forward.

HALIFAX MONTHLY MEETING

After years of holding Meetings at the Atlantic School of Theology (AST) in the very extreme south end of the city and, after a long period of discernment, Halifax Monthly Meeting moved to the Ecology Action Centre, which is centrally located in Halifax. While the space is not as large, it has the advantage of being close to numerous bus routes and because of EAC's environmental mandate (the building itself is certified as one of the most energy efficient in all of Canada) we feel an affinity with our "landlord". Our roots with EAC are deep: an early member of HMM, Susan Holtz and Brian Gifford, son of "Giff" Gifford, another HMM member, were instrumental in the establishment and original work of the EAC. Early on in our tenancy, we arrived at Meeting one Sunday and felt that we were in a beautiful forest – a local artist had worked with EAC volunteers to produce a stunning art piece for the Nocturne art festival. While parts of the installation are no longer there, some of the murals on walls and windows remain and provide us with the beauty of natural world to contemplate during Worship.

Like many Quaker Meetings, we are largely an aging group. Individuals within the Meeting are active in various ways which will be outlined; however, we are at the point where we are more readably able to support good projects in financial ways rather than take on the work ourselves. For many years HMM had a Meeting House fund in the hope that we might be able to establish our own place. However we finally reached the conclusion that such a prospect was untenable and so part of that money has been released. Our Special Projects fund allows us to support worthwhile causes that we undertake (such as refugee sponsorship in previous years) or those initiatives by other groups that we deem important. We have contributed to the following requests over the past year:

Women of First Light – Wapna'kikewi'skwag – requested support for a land-based experiential learning camp where indigenous elders taught young people traditional skills and practices. The outcome was very positive. The camp included all generations coming together to share in practical and spiritual ways.

HMM provided help to sponsor a talk by a Palestinian Mennonite and Human Rights Lawyer in Antigonish where we have a Worship Group.

One of our members is a Legal Aid Lawyer in Goose Bay, Labrador and we provided support for a Restorative Justice Mediation for a youth in the community.

An African American who we were familiar with when she previously spent time in Nova Scotia on research and performance requested help in order to take a performance piece on the Underground Railroad from Nova Scotia to New York.

Among our own membership, we have people actively involved with Alternatives to Violence (AVP), The Out of the Cold Shelter for the homeless, representing us on the Interfaith Harmony Week Sacred Spaces annual event, serving on committee for Corrections Service of Canada's faith based Community Corrections and Reintegration Committee, letter writing on prison issues. Individuals also have participated in actions revolving around human rights and environmental issues.

As part of the Interfaith Harmony Week initiative in the city, for the second time, we hosted one of the Sacred Spaces events – in which members of the public were invited to our Meeting for Worship and introduced to Quaker process and testimonies.

While we have very few children connected to our Meeting, our First Day coordinator chose to organize a couple of events where the children were taken to a local circus school for an enjoyable afternoon of instruction and play.

Our move to EAC has not appreciably enlarged attendance: however, there are a few younger folks who have found us and it is refreshing to have new attenders.

One of our original members, known countrywide among Quakers, died in February 2018 at the age of 100. Betty Farber Peterson had lived a long and active life and her service to the many causes that she and Quakers espoused will not be forgotten.

Structurally, our Meeting has become part of the Atlantic Half Year Meeting. While we have always had close affiliation with all Atlantic Friends through the annual Atlantic Friends Gathering, this move to becoming a Half Year Meeting has been deemed a way to make our voices stronger through being a more formal collective.

This has been a year of gentle transition and unhampered by major issues. Our friendships continue to mature and we are thankful for our fellowship.

South Shore Worship Group

The biweekly meetings of the South Shore Worship Group see as few as four and as many as 16 gather to share worship and conversation. In between meetings we stay connected to each other with regular emails and phone calls. We also keep in touch with several people who are out of the country to help us, and them stay connected.

In 2018, one of our long-time attenders, Verena Hoffman, moved to Ontario and she has been attending Meeting near her new home. We welcomed Susan Holtz who transferred back to Nova Scotia from Ontario this year as well as several new attendees who join us regularly. We were pleased to welcome visitors from Annapolis Monthly Meeting in the fall and we plan a return visit to them in the spring. Some of our members have also been hosting visits with Friends from Halifax Monthly Meeting.

Outreach activities in 2018 included the following: Our Worship Group was one of the sponsors of the Kairos Blanket Exercise last May and several of our members participated in this very powerful and educational activity; one of our members attended the initial gathering of Atlantic Half-Yearly Meeting in October; one member took an online course offered by CYM; and we purchased two "What to Expect in Quaker Meeting for Worship" DVDs for use by newcomers to our meeting. While we don't take on peace and justice projects as a worship group, our members bring a Quaker presence to their work in local organizations and initiatives such as reconciliation, environmental activism and social justice.

After at least 15 years the Monday afternoon peace vigils in front of our MPs office in Bridgewater have been laid down. Our members were instrumental in starting the vigils and many of us took part. This was a visible witness for peace in our community the focus of which changed over the years depending on what was happening in the world.

We close with appreciation for the work and commitment of Halifax Monthly Meeting.

In Friendship, South Shore Worship Group

Antigonish Worship Group

At our monthly meeting for business, six of us used the worship sharing format to explore the several suggested topics. This report summarizes the themes that emerged.

1. Spiritual health and growth of our worship group:

Several of us spoke to the strong, though sometimes hard to articulate, attachment and commitment we feel for our worship group. We find it uplifting, supportive, and mutually caring. Some said that they feel more open-hearted on leaving, and one quoted from a Quaker writer, "I have tender feelings in my soul." We value the strengths and gifts of fellow worshippers, and appreciate our intergenerational diversity. Although our worship group has not grown conspicuously, it has not diminished in recent years either, and there are several people who join us regularly if not very frequently. We have committed every third meeting to a potluck lunch after silent worship, and most recently to playing indoor games together.

2. Relationships with our larger community:

We are glad to have found a home for our meetings for worship, at St James United Church for several years, and more recently, at L'Arche Antigonish, where we can hold every meeting for worship at a constant time. Several of us are regular attenders at Atlantic Friends Gathering, and a few of us at Canadian Yearly Meeting. We have also made several links with other religious organizations, primarily for discussing and taking some action on societal and political issues of mutual concern. We have written several letters to our political leaders, including correspondence with the prime minister's office on Bill C-262; publicizing efforts to raise funds for Wabanaki Land-based Learning Initiative; and endorsement of a statement calling on our leaders to take immediate and decisive action for a fair climate transition. A member of our worship group attended the People's School on Poverty in September, organized by the Antigonish Poverty Reduction Coalition. Early last year we held a community-wide gathering we entitled "Meet the Quakers," which was attended by several university students and other members of our community. Lastly, we have placed our newly updated pamphlet about Antigonish Worship Group in several sites in our community, and will continue to do so.

3. Learning from religious scripture and related writings:

We devote every third meeting of our worship group to 'Meeting for Learning', at which we read from and share texts of mutual interest. Most recently, we have taken turns to read a section from Canadian Faith and Practice, after which we use the worship sharing format to reflect on what we have heard. We have a committed space for our Quaker library, which continues to grow slowly but surely.

In Friendship, John Graham-Pole, 03.10.19

HAMILTON MONTHLY MEETING

The main indicator of the spiritual health of Meeting is the friendly and settled quality of sharing in our worship, both silent and spoken. We value the gathered silence sustained by all. Spoken ministry is given mostly by a handful of Friends. Other Friends speak on rare occasions. We encourage all to heed the nudge to minister when called.

Hamilton Monthly Meeting's sponsoring of a Syrian refugee family has endured into its fourth year, through many problems which were unpredicted and challenging. In the fall, we celebrated the successful arrival of the two grandparents. They have settled into our upstairs apartment.

This is a Meeting project that has involved many of us in some way and has been sustained through the obstacles by the substantial work of four Friends. On reflection, the impact of the practical preparation process of getting the upstairs ship- shape went beyond helping "others". Those Meetings for Painting, Electrical, Plumbing and so on brought some of us closer together through shared labour: not quite a traditional barn-raising, perhaps, but a deepening connection to Meeting, with each person offering what they could, even if it felt like only "a widow's mite". It exemplified the testimony of Equality, providing a reminder that Ministry comes in many forms.

The monthly Peace Think Tank, a sustained collective effort, is now in its 10th year. It has been enriched by the contributions of like-minded individuals it has attracted from beyond Meeting, as we explore our intellectual roots and some major social issues.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations have laid out responsibilities for Friends individually and collectively, but we feel only a limited understanding of just what this asks of us. Individual efforts have been made by some Friends, and we are exploring ways to respond as a faith community.

As in other recent years, we maintain a steady size in numbers, but Friends are also getting yet another year older. Our First Day School has a consistent core group who are growing up and becoming strong. Their presentation for the Christmas season was a play about the refugee experience, which brought many Friends to tears, including the husband in our refugee couple. Two new younger families have begun attending Meeting and we hope to keep them.

We have one Worship Group under our care; they send this report:

Cambridge Worship Group

Cambridge Worship Group has been spiritually enlivening for its participants this year, and has grown as well. We have welcomed a new enquirer, as well as participants from outside Cambridge. During difficult times (weather and health), it has been important to those of us from Cambridge to have an opportunity for worship that is local. We meet regularly on fourth Fridays from September through May, in turns between the two homes of the founding couples, who continue to be a support for one another. Our worship always includes a reading, and we finish with refreshments and fellowship.

Perhaps the most important thing to say about the year 2018 in Hamilton Meeting is that we have deepened our sense of connection to each other, and heightened our spiritual awareness of the holy: we are a family.

INTERIOR BC MONTHLY MEETING

Interior BC Quakers gather twice monthly in Kelowna in a John Howard Society boardroom. We are widespread geographically and several of us drive more than two hours in order to attend.

We notice steady growth in our meeting. A few times, 20 people were present! Newcomers hear about us from a variety of sources and several have chosen to attend regularly. They bring new energy to long time members. Some children and young people began to attend with their families and their presence is cherished, too. New people bring new ideas so we are encouraged to examine our Quaker ways, determining what is important and what we can let

go. Unfortunately, it is difficult for us to have shared studied opportunities because we are so widespread.

The death of three much-loved Friends was a time for us to reflect on many things. Their absence is deeply felt in our small community.

The silence of our meeting is fulfilling; time disappears. The collective energy of people who have the same intent adds to and changes an individual experience. This year, our sharing of our lives at the rise of meeting became more intentional, which brought us closer to each other. Our stories give opportunities for others to experience Spirit. We are learning to look for the Spirit in each other. An annual spring retreat allows people to share their spiritual beliefs in a deeper way than can happen during Meeting.

We get strength from our IBCMM community. The silence of Meeting sometimes results in clarity on how to deal with issues we are facing. We each bring our experience of Spirit to service in our lives and we hope it radiates to those around us. Our meeting tried very hard to work on a shared project but the geographical challenges are huge. Several of us were called separately to work in adult literacy and we wonder where this will lead.

Kamloops Worship Group

A new group of worshippers began meeting in Kamloops in late 2018. The group has experienced Friends and new attenders, plus one child, and we are feeling blessed to be able to meet together in our home community. Besides meeting together in Friends' homes, we are making small steps to get to know each other outside worship and begin the task of developing a Quaker community.

Lillooet Worship Group

This group of two meets faithfully in their rural home every Sunday from 11 to 12. The divine presence is easily felt in the beauty of the Lillooet hills. If the group is lucky, they can sense it in their meeting, too. They miss the presence of other people, especially the opportunity for more spoken ministry, and would appreciate visits from other IBCMM Friends from time to time. Both members have been very active on many committees over the years. Spirit informs their work on those committees and, conversely, working on those committees brings Spirit to their lives.

Cherryville Friends

Cherryville Friends gather once or twice a month for worship and lunch at a home or in a park.

KITCHENER AREA MONTHLY MEETING

We exit our 2018 year with gratitude for all that we were able to create together at KAMM.

Reflections from Friends about the state of our society included much happiness that we are able to be a welcoming space for newcomers. New attenders have various paths; some stay for only a while with us, while others go on to become long-time attenders and members. We are grateful for all and the role we have in these different journeys.

We are grateful that we are a vital Meeting despite our small size. We continue to have meetings with potlucks and discussion which are well attended and nurture our sense of community. We have members and attenders of all ages. While we support aging Friends, we

also support the concerns and life stages of younger Friends. We were particularly delighted to welcome a new baby and to help make the space more welcoming for her through installing a change table.

Space sharing has been an important service for us. We were happy to share space with an Indigenous theater group and to support another Indigenous art group. Individual Friends continue to contribute to their own ministries in the community towards Indigenous concerns. One Friend participated in Two Row on the Grand, and more plan to attend next year. We are also nascent forming an Indigenous concerns committee to address this concern in a communal manner. The committee met once in 2018. Members also enjoyed a documentary called *Soop on Wheels* about physical disability and residential schools, brought to us by Sandy Greer.

We have added a period at the end of meeting for sharing sorrows and joys in our Meeting for Worship. This has helped to create more spaces for Friends to share their personal lives and to receive support. Friends say they appreciate this time and the opportunity to share personal issues that would not seem right as a vocal ministry. Friends have also been comfortable to ask for committees of care and/or clearness and been supported by Friends in doing so.

Environmental and climate concerns remain on the forefront of many Friends' minds. KAMM has supported this with gestures such as having a rain garden and installing a bike rack.

Guelph Worship Group happily revived at the end of 2018. This has brought together Friends new and old to worship together on an occasional basis.

We feel worship and vocal ministry is offering an inclusive vision, led by Friends' inner guidance but without feeling coercive to others. We are happy to find this balance of authenticity and equality in our worship.

Lucknow Worship Group

Our numbers have been stable during 2018. We do not have a first day program as our young people have grown up and attend Meeting for Worship when they are in the area. Our practice is to meet twice monthly with locations rotating among our members and attenders. For food and fellowship we have a potluck meal at each Meeting. One Sunday is a regular Meeting for Worship and the other is a discussion Meeting in a worship sharing format usually on a topic suggested by the host family for that month. Friends find the discussions spiritually meaningful. The Meetings for Worship have a good balance of silence and spoken ministry.

The Meeting, meals and fellowship provide a place of spiritual nurture and personal support. By rotating responsibility for hosting the worship group we share responsibility for setting up and the workload. It also provides an opportunity to meet non-attending partners.

MONTREAL MONTHLY MEETING

During 2018 we have been delighted to see a growth in the numbers attending Montreal Meeting, both on a Sunday and at our Midweek Meeting for worship at McGill University. We have a vibrant social time after Meeting for Worship and it has enabled us to get to know each other better and to welcome visitors warmly.

Another regular activity has been a singing potluck supper, held in a different Friend's home each month. We had a special one at Christmas time when over 20 people attended and sang gustily.

In May we were fortunate to have Mary Meeks a Woodbrooke associate tutor visit from Britain and run a day workshop entitled Worship and Spoken Ministry. This was organised by the Woodbrooke on the Road team and, although not as well attended as hoped, we are seeing the fruits of it developing gradually and have since used some of the material from it.

In June we had our first Meeting picnic. This was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Games were played and food eaten and dogs walked. It was great fun. We intend repeating this in 2019.

Also in June some of our members attended Regional Gathering at Sylvia Powers' farm: the topic was Healing and Rebuilding our Communities presented by Etienne Paul Mungombe and Joseph Kapita.

Throughout 2018, a worship group was gathering steam in Quebec City. We are pleased to announce that in early 2019, Canada's first francophone worship group will begin meeting under the care of our meeting. This is in addition to our beloved Laurentian worship group. We are hoping to be able to announce a South Shore worship group in 2019 as well.

We have a refugee committee who have been supporting a refugee family and organizing a weekly art event for refugee children at a local YMCA. Our Indigenous committee meets fairly regularly and will have actions and events to propose to the meeting for 2019.

In November we had a session mainly aimed at new attenders and enquirers when a long time Friend was put on the spot being asked questions about Quakerism. This was well attended and generally felt to be worthwhile. It has led to M&C organising more discussion sessions for the future.

Over Christmas the Greene Centre closes and we were pleased to be able to meet to worship in the residence where our Friend Molly Walsh lives.

We are delighted to have had three applications for membership this year. Two Friends were received into membership in 2018 and the third will be in 2019, with a fourth member transferring membership from another meeting. Sadly, two new members then moved to Nova Scotia but we hope they will be in regularly contact. We are delighted that our numbers span all age groups with children, teenagers, students, young adults and upwards in age.

Generally there is a very positive feeling about our Meeting and we are growing both in numbers and spiritually as is seen in the vocal ministry during Meeting for Worship and the actions of Friends in their involvement outside the Meeting community.

NEW BRUNSWICK MONTHLY MEETING

The Allowed Meetings and Worship Groups that make up New Brunswick Monthly Meeting connect areas otherwise separated by political boundaries. Our Monthly Meeting spans two countries, three provinces, and the State of Maine. Indeed, one of our worship groups brings worshippers together across the international border each week.

This report presents the State of Society reports of our Meeting and of its five worship groups. Prince Edward Island and Eastern Shore (Nova Scotia) Allowed Meetings are also under the care of our Monthly Meeting, however as Allowed meetings they attend to their own business and reporting.

Snowy weather and icy roads sometimes cause us to cancel Monthly Meeting. We are aware of our diminishing appetite for long hours of travel by car, especially in the winter, however many of us continue to feel that being together for business is what faithfulness demands of us. We are strongly committed to sustaining the richness of the earth, and many of us are committed to earth care in many ways. We ponder what the future holds for us as a community in this time when the need for climate adaptation is so pressing.

We hold a keen interest in the history of our region, including two old stories whose details are uncovered and revealed in the present. These include the Quaker colony established in 1783 by a group of Quaker Loyalists at Beaver Harbour, on the Bay of Fundy coast near St. Andrews. We believe it was the first colony in North America in which slave holding was banned, as this was clearly spelled out on the ship's manifest, which is archived at the New Brunswick Museum. The Peskotomuhkati (Passamaquoddy) People of the Skutik River (St. Croix) provided material help and guidance to the Quakers who arrived in Beaver Harbour late in 1783. To make this story better known, a display panel was developed in 2017 that outlines this history, and we shared copies of it in 2018. We note a growing public interest in this story, and we kept up communications with New Brunswick institutions responsible for heritage and interested people in Beaver Harbour as this story continues to take shape. Also, the historic Friends Church at Fort Fairfield, Maine is close to the US-Canada border, and it too connects us to Quaker history. In 2018, we continued to support friends from the New Brunswick Black History Society in efforts to revive and publicly celebrate the story about the Fort Fairfield stop on the Underground Railroad.

History continues to unfold in the present, and the Peskotomuhkati found themselves in 2018 on the cusp of being recognized by Canada and the Province of New Brunswick as one of Canada's first peoples. We continue to actively support them through prayer and friendship in their efforts to be duly recognized.

In 2018, New Brunswick Monthly Meeting joined with other monthly meetings in Atlantic Canada to form Atlantic Half Yearly Meeting. We pray that having done so we will increase the presence and visibility of Quakers in the Atlantic region. We anticipate further sharing our strengths and trials as a larger community and consolidating our efforts to witness regionally to our concerns for reconciliation with first nations, peace education, and for the well-being of imprisoned people, among other concerns.

So much of New Brunswick Friends' spiritual lives unfolds where we live and worship together. Our individual worship group reports are presented below.

Fredericton Worship Group

In 2018, the Fredericton Worship Group has met every two weeks most months except for in the summer. Once a month Friends share their homes with 10-14 members and attenders for Meeting for worship, worship sharing and socializing over coffee and snacks. We are a deeply connected group who put great value on silent worship, shared values and friendship. We have welcomed new attenders this year who have contributed greatly to the richness of ministry and community.

As a worship group we have benefitted from having New Brunswick Monthly Meeting meet in Fredericton, alternating with our Worship Group meetings. This provides the opportunity for those in our worship group to worship, break bread and do business with those from other worship groups in New Brunswick, and allowed meetings in PEI and NS. For this meeting of 15-20 people we meet in a more public space at the university. This past year we also hosted the NBMM fall retreat in Fredericton, providing another opportunity to be with others from the wider group for worship and sharing.

Moving forward we have talked about the need to engage as a group in education and deeper conversations about the Religious Society of Friends. We hope in the coming year to access some of the online opportunities for Quaker courses.

Fundy Friends Worship Group

Our Worship Group is small but very active. We meet most Sundays, whenever we have a quorum of 3. We have nine regular worshippers one of whom is a member of our monthly meeting. It is rare that all 9 of us are present but when it happens it is a real celebration. On the 2nd Sunday of most months we continue to gather for house church, based loosely on the Catholic liturgy. Several of us have Catholic backgrounds and we find this to be a refreshing take on the Catholicism of our past.

Although our Meetings for Worship are generally silent, they are spirit filled. We usually begin with a short reading and /or a piece of music, followed by silence, then worship sharing, and finally discussion over a meal. Our Sunday mornings together feel like an anchor point to the week. It is very nourishing to share silence and to talk about what is most on our hearts and minds. We value this sharing and the deepening relationships and community it fosters.

Several of us are also involved in the contemplative life of Wesley United Church in St. Andrews and we share monthly mid-week contemplative services and drumming circles. The United Church Minister is a dear friend to us Quakers and a kindred spirit. We find much good fellowship there.

Fundy Friends are all very present in the world; involved in numerous volunteer activities sometimes together and often apart. There is a wonderful caring for each other when someone is ill or having a difficult time. We often speak together about world and local events, seeking to make sense of it all and finding our place in creating peace and justice in it. We feel grateful and blessed to have each other to lean on, to share with, and to experience the divine.

Houlton-Woodstock Worship Group

Deeply silent meetings followed by spirited discussions over refreshments (and potluck once a month) characterized our weekly Meetings for Worship in 2018. For one Christmas, one of our members gave us all a book of divine substance ("By the Light of the Moon: Reflections on the Wholeness of Being by Bunny McBride) which we read and discussed. At another Christmas, a

member gave us Pendle Hill Pamphlets for discussion purposes. This brings added vitality to the spiritual life of our meeting.

Our First Day School, consisting of one 15-year-old young lady, featured meditative coloring and study of Faith and Practice, Advices and Queries, Quaker organizations and publications.

The fall retreat of NBMM on Death and Dying was attended by four members of our WG who also participated in the concern and care for an elderly member of our group who passed away at the end of the year.

Our weekly silent vigil for peace in Houlton continues into its 18th year with five faithful attenders in the summer and fall and two in the driven snows of winter. Actively engaged in concerns re our Indigenous neighbors, the Wabanaki, we are fortunate to have representation in our Worship Group of members on both sides of the US-Canadian border since three of the four tribes were split off from their fellow tribal community members when the border was set. We continue to hold in the Light the ongoing negotiations of the Peskotomuhkati Nation at Skutik with the federal government regarding resource development and recognition.

Our individual members remain active with local groups on environmental and climate change issues. Work with welcoming refugees to Canada also continues. In Houlton, individual members continue their work with the ecumenical community. This involves work with the local ministerial association, Lenten services, World Day of Prayer, etc.

Some of our members work in vocations and volunteer positions in which they consciously draw on Quaker testimonies and practice Quaker conflict resolution skills. These include social work counseling, rural municipal management, medical practice, Red Cross emergency response, and US/Canada Border Commission work. With basic respect and civility sometimes missing when conflicts arise, Quaker values at work can be an important example of how to build better relationships. An Issac Pennington quote on the office wall for one member is a daily reminder: "Our life is love, and peace, and tenderness; and bearing one with another, and forgiving one another, and not laying accusations one against another; but praying one for another, and helping one another up with a tender hand."

Several members are engaged in creative arts that enrich the context of our Quaker association and make a contribution to the wider communities of which they are a part. A musician plays violin at a Senior's Centre. A writer has completed a story for children about a woodcarver's love for animals, and another has completed a study of literary translation. The publishing company operated by one of our member families will publish both books. They have previously published two books of poetry and one of essays on spirituality by authors who are members of New Brunswick Monthly Meeting.

One of our members is very active with the establishment of the Atlantic Half Yearly Meeting (AHYM). There is increasing enthusiasm for Quaker outreach in the Atlantic provinces.

The strength and spirit of community continues to be very strong among our group. There is love, care and concern for those among us who have struggles, challenges or bumps in the road. The sense of community within carries over to the community work where we live.

Sackville Worship Group

The Sackville Worship Group comprises three members of NBMM, eight regular attenders, and several others who attend on occasion.

We understand that our Meeting for Worship provides an important service to the attenders who, although not drawn to discern membership in the Society of Friends, are grateful for the chance to sit in silence – in community – and open themselves to God. Our worship is often deep. We would benefit from more spoken ministry.

Currently, we meet on Tuesdays at noon in the Chapel on the Mt. Allison University campus. We are hoping to hold Meeting for Worship on Sunday, at least once a month, in order to meet the needs of those who work during the week.

We nurture our community through a monthly brown bag lunch gathering and the occasional special get-together, such as our annual pre-Christmas catered lunch.

The Sackville Worship Group continues to take part in the life of New Brunswick Monthly Meeting, when possible. We host Meeting for Worship for Business once or twice a year, and last fall we played host to a gathering of the Atlantic Half Yearly Meeting.

We all continue to be involved in social justice issues as led. Most of this work is done on an individual basis rather than as a group effort.

Saint John Worship Group

There are 4 regulars attending Meeting for Worship; sometimes 5.

We meet at the Villa Madonna retreat centre of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saint John every two weeks; we are grateful for the lovely meeting space. The Directors of the Villa Madonna are very happy to have the Quakers using the spaces again—there is a lot of interest in the Villa Madonna community regarding Quakers' ways and works. Thus, we have outreach through simple presence. A wider circle of people is invited to attend, and sometimes there are visitors to Villa Madonna attending retreats that come to Meeting for Worship.

The Saint John worship group carries on as it has for many years, and we find it's very good when we sit together. We are happy to do it and feel it's worthwhile. We share thoughts after meeting and share food at the Villa Madonna; following an hour at worship we spend a further hour in fellowship while sharing food.

The worship group is nurtured by the wider circle of Friends including New Brunswick Monthly Meeting, Atlantic Friends Gathering, Atlantic Half Yearly Meeting and Canadian Yearly Meeting.

OTTAWA MONTHLY MEETING

Friends... they cherish one another's hopes. They are kind to one another's dreams.

—Henry David Thoreau, *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*

The Spirit is alive in Ottawa Monthly Meeting. In 2018, Ottawa Monthly Meeting took two marriages under its care. We welcomed three new members, two by transfer from Atlantic City Area Monthly Meeting and one by conviction after a long period of loving service to both OMM and the Yearly Meeting. We are delighted by the large number of young adult Friends and attenders who regularly worship with us and many have been welcomed into the life of the Meeting as committee members and as participants in our events.

We undertook an extensive review of the use of our premises, including ways to make it more accessible to Friends and attenders with mobility challenges. We also actively considered but eventually rejected, acquisition of a property adjacent to the Meeting House. We addressed mould remediation and removal. Also, the space needs of our Children's Meeting are being shaped to be welcoming and healthy. The library underwent a major decluttering and new seating and a work/meeting table were purchased. This space is now a more serene and convenient meeting place where we hold many of our committee meetings and discussion groups. Our meeting house is used by many outside groups, and this year Premises Committee accommodated a longstanding request from our renters for a storage area. We have a social and environmental responsibility to use our Meetinghouse more effectively, to lower our carbon footprint, and to promote outreach to our neighbourhood. Our work in 2018 has moved us closer to that goal. Many members and attenders supported this work and it provided an opportunity for fellowship. We are grateful for the core of dedicated Friends, who oversee the good functioning of the Meetinghouse.

Our 2018 statistical report noted that we had 78 active Members and 36 active attenders. We also have a large number of Friends who are inactive: in 2018 this number was 62 out of 140 recorded members and we attempted to contact these Friends as able. Ottawa Meeting has St Lawrence Valley Allowed Meeting under its care and we append a report from these Friends at the end of this report. Our Children's Meeting is slowly growing after a decline in attendance and we are mindful of its still tender position within our Meeting community.

Sunday morning worship remains the tie that binds. Spiritual growth was also supported through the process of Meeting for Worship for Business. Adult Religious Education & Outreach hosted community building and social events such as game nights and coffee houses which have raised funds for local needs. Our annual retreat focussed on sharing our spiritual lives.

We have developed and hosted dynamic learning experiences including the Waters of Reconciliation Series developed by members of our Peace and Social Concerns Committee to expand our understanding of our relationship with Indigenous peoples in Canada and to build relationships with Algonquin/Anishnaabe peoples in our territory. This series continues in 2019. In addition, Friends individually or through Peace and Social Concerns have led or worked with many active groups in Ottawa to support the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, to resist the arms trade, to reduce plastic waste and the privatization of water, to support UNDRIP (Bill C-262) and to support child care in the Bajo Lempa community in El Salvador.

Two Saturday morning retreats, hosted by Ministry and Counsel, provided an extended time to reflect on central theological ideas such as Grace and Hope, with completely silent worship, worship-sharing, and worship with ministry. These were deeply appreciated by attendees.

The Meeting has continued to support the emotional and spiritual health of couples through the ministry of Couple Enrichment—both through one-day and weekend residential workshops and through a monthly ongoing growth group. Couple Enrichment serves both Quaker and non-Quaker couples, and so acts as outreach by demonstrating Quaker principles in action on a very personal level.

Through our actions and reflections, we have come to a deeper understanding of what it is to accept differences and look for commonalities rather than divisions. We hold space for discussions that involve a spectrum of opinions. The events of the world affect us deeply as individuals and this inspires our action as a faith community. It is so easy to promote fear and

we have a sensitive antenna for grief. As we move through grief to hope our shared work becomes hopeful in the face of fear.

We sense a warm affection amongst the members and attenders of our Meeting and rejoice in the steadfast and quiet service given by so many Friends. We need to remember to give support for Friends who are doers and to build in more joy and celebration within our Meeting. We become attuned to the Divine in each of us through the act of service. Meeting feeds our spiritual fires so we can engage with the work of the world and know that we are not alone.

St. Lawrence Valley Friends Allowed Meeting

St. Lawrence Valley Friends Allowed Meeting continues to meet for unprogrammed worship on Sunday evenings at 5:00 pm in the Reading Room of the Christian Science Church in Potsdam.

We follow our worship with a simple potluck supper for fellowship. As one member puts it, we find ourselves “smaller (in number) and older.”

The Muellers have moved to Chicago to be closer to family, and we miss their presence. Ice storms and sometimes ill health further diminish the numbers of us that meet to worship. We have put mid-week Meeting for worship on hold for a while, due to scheduling difficulties this year, and because the convener, Laura Rediehs, will be on sabbatical next year.

PELHAM EXECUTIVE MEETING

Our Meeting is small, as has been noted many times in these Reports. However, we feel that there is a new energy in our times together thanks to the presence of several attenders who have joined us over the past few years. The character of the meeting has been affected for the better by their active participation and contributions to the meeting. One of these faithful attenders wrote: “...when contemplating the news these days, I find myself during the week imagining 'bringing the news' into the space of Sunday worship, thereby to gain perspective for being a peacemaking presence in my world, and to gain hope that the purposes of God will be worked out by Spirit with my surrender to them through contemplation and action.”

Meeting for Worship is enhanced by very rich “afterwords,” thoughts that were not ready to be shared in Meeting but arose out of silent worship.

One attender and partner are doing an online Quaker study through the CYM Religious Education Committee.

We continue to meet on the first and third Sundays of the month, in the Niagara Artists Centre in St. Catharines. The Meeting as a body is a member of NAC, several of us have individual memberships, and two artists in our Meeting have had exhibitions at NAC. Twice a month we worship in the midst of inspiring and challenging works of contemporary art.

Our outreach activity is focussed on our membership in *Bridge of Hope*, a refugee settlement team of various faith groups in the Niagara Region. The two founding faith bodies, Grace Mennonite Church of St. Catharines, and the Islamic Society of St. Catharines, have been augmented by our Meeting and by Trinity United Church in Beamsville. Its work has been facilitated by the Mennonite Central Committee. From 2016 to 2018, Bridge of Hope has sponsored five Syrian families. One of our members is on the executive of Bridge of Hope, and

another is on the general board. Four of us are tutoring Syrian refugees. We are inspired by the courage of the refugees as they grieve for the homeland they have lost and find their way in this new land, and we are grateful to participate in the ecumenical spirit of Bridge of Hope.

We continue to support the Annual Short Hills Haudenosaunee Deer Harvest. This past year our support took several forms: a statement of support which appears on their website as well as on ours, letters to the editors of local newspapers, donations of money and refreshments, and attendance at the panel discussions held at the entrance to the Short Hills Provincial Park during the hunt. With the assistance of a grant from CFSC, we organized a panel discussion titled "Faith Communities Consider Reconciliation", with CFSC staff Keira Mann plus Anglican and Mennonite presenters. We see these expressions of respect for the treaty rights of Indigenous peoples as a matter of standing for Quaker principles.

Individuals in the Meeting are active in the community in other ways, finding nourishment to be so from our worship together. Two are active in hospice work with people facing the end of life; one of these is a Quaker Chaplain. Two are involved in Out of the Cold. Three of us spoke at Grace Mennonite Church as part of a four-week series of guest speakers on the topic of Expressions of the Spirit: Action and Contemplation, in the context of Pentecost. One member gave a presentation to the Unitarian Congregation of Niagara on "One Quaker's path to clarity." One member is on the Camp NeeKauNis committee; with the Meeting's blessing, another is our delegate to Representative Meeting.

We feel the need to have less formal get-togethers to strengthen our sense of fellowship: two recent events were a Christmas party, and a daylong winter retreat with the theme of "Joy". Lately we have experimented with a variation on the "Soup and Stories" format practised in some Meetings: Friends to speak briefly about some aspect of their Quaker journey. We are considering expanding this to include bringing brief passages from Quaker or other writings for discussion. We recall the study sessions we have held in the past, such as sessions based on scripture and on the FGC study guide, "Engaging with the Quaker Testimonies," and we feel that at present we lack such careful examination of fundamentals.

PETERBOROUGH MONTHLY MEETING

Our weekly Meeting for Worship continues to be our spiritual centre. The quality of silence and vocal ministry (when it comes) are satisfying and nourishing. Many welcome this opportunity for stillness in their lives. We appreciate afterthoughts and reflections following meeting and conversations during our teatimes and potlucks as we continue to grow in community. We are enriched by the contributions of several new attenders. Newcomers are always welcome.

Teaching and discovery continue to be important to our meeting: our monthly discussions on First Sunday, a monthly mid-week meeting for worship sharing at a local retirement home, and our World Religions study group continue to enrich us spiritually.

We offer a children's program which includes the monthly Earthcare program. The children's report after Earthcare brings joy to the meeting. In the spring we had a wonderful time at our first talent sharing event (olio), which included adults and children.

The meeting continues to promote the local Peace Council, which holds a regular monthly peace vigil. We began to use an Indigenous land acknowledgement at our meetings for worship

for business. Many of us participated in the first Reconciliation Day held in Peterborough, which included the Blanket Exercise for children and adults.

Other outreach activities included: sponsoring and introducing a film at the Reframe Film Festival; prison visitation at Warkworth Institution by one member; hosting a workshop on penal abolition offered by Quakers Fostering Justice; involvement with the Bridges out of Poverty mentoring program; participation in an ecumenical group called "Many Windows One Light".

We sent a delegate to the Representative Meeting. Various members attended the St. Lawrence Regional Gathering, CYM in Barrie, and the Carry on Discovery (COD) camp at Camp NeeKauNis. One member serves on the Camp NeeKauNis committee and one member is on the Publications & Communications Committee.

We set up a Communications Committee to further inward and outward communications. Their first project was to launch a Facebook page.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ALLOWED MEETING

The year 2018 contained a variety of experiences for our Allowed Meeting. We continue to hold Meeting on Sundays year round in Charlottetown for 10 regular members and attenders, with an average of six in attendance each week. Absences typically revolved around work commitments, health issues, and (in winter) travel conditions for those living a long way from Charlottetown. We are a close-knit community and really miss those Friends unable to come on any Sunday. We follow worship with short business items, then snacks and fellowship. We hold Meeting for Worship for Business three or four times a year.

After experiencing a full year at our latest venue, The Mount Continuing Care Community (in their sunny library), we got itchy feet again – always hoping to find the ideal venue, short of building our own meetinghouse – and recently moved to another venue. Although we had been welcomed with open arms at The Mount and were able to bring our previously scattered Quaker library there, we found the physical facility challenging at times and not conveniently central for some Friends and visitors. We have now moved to the Haviland Club, a heritage house in the city centre, hoping our weekly peaceful Quaker vibes will help make the military history of this building's use in former years fade into oblivion – although we believe it does have a Quaker connection through the original 19th-century shipbuilding family who owned it.

This past summer, we were quite delighted with the many out-of-province visitors (more than 20) who joined us for worship. They came from mainland Canada, the USA, Australia, and (although they unfortunately missed us) even off a cruise ship! Like a breath of fresh air, two of these Friends were actually moving to PEI and have joined our Meeting. We also enjoyed occasional visits to the home of one of our number whose property, on the northwest shore, is believed to be the location of the arrival in the late 1700s of Quaker Robert Clarke's settlers from England. To hold Meeting for Worship there on the deck overlooking the distant bay always gives us a powerful sense of history – and the feeling that perhaps those early Friends are present worshipping with us! (For more on this amazing chapter of PEI and Quaker history, see John Cousins, *New London: The Lost Dream*, at Island Studies Press, <http://projects.upei.ca/isp/>)

During the winter months, we once again held a number of Quaker Study evenings, although attendance varied somewhat, especially due to challenging travel conditions. Subjects have included Truth, Forgiveness, Discernment, and currently Thomas Kelly's *A Testament of Devotion*. There is no easy answer to the fact that, given our wide geographical spread, not all Friends can attend.

Our Meetings for Worship are generally silent, but we have experimented with opening the last 10 minutes to worship-sharing, to encourage Friends to speak their thoughts that perhaps they felt inhibited from doing during worship. We acknowledge that there is no set formula for offering ministry during worship, and we may fail – or succeed – in doing so according to our perceived direction from the Light Within. But perhaps it is better to fail with good intentions than not venture forth at all. Our hearts will be open to the divine Presence which will not judge us.

Some other thoughts emerging from our preparation for this report included appreciation for the development of spirituality and faith; the helpfulness of a variety of perspectives in a supportive setting that deepens community; inclusiveness; and the need to avoid “spiritual dying” by challenging ourselves as a Meeting, by allowing opportunities for disagreement and discussion. Sometimes language (especially terminology meant to convey what “God” means to each of us) challenges us, but we are reminded to listen “where words come from.” The love of silence in worship, the finding of peace therein, and silent worship providing the “rest point” in the week were mentioned by more than one Friend. Another suggested that due care and attention to our personal spiritual growth, whether in a Quaker community or elsewhere, will give us more of a solid rock to stand on when the going gets tough. That is not the time to discover one's feet are planted on shifting sand.

We finish with these thoughts shared by a younger Friend, comparatively new to Quakers, which speak volumes for how important it is for us to keep the faith. We cannot walk another's temporal walk, neither can we fully comprehend another's spiritual journey, but we can uphold one another in love, care, and fellowship as each is challenged to face and embrace the ups and downs of daily life:

“... I listened to those who spoke in a convincingly rational way about how we couldn't possibly all get along on Earth, and how there couldn't possibly be enough for us all to share. They said I ought to put my guard up, distrust others. And I did, somewhat. I floated off towards intolerance. But the weekly doses of silence with Friends was a salve on my soul. They would leave me feeling refreshed, and open, and ready to look for the best in the world and to help it along. I drifted that way, I think, because of my tight financial, time, and energy restraints. Paycheque-to-paycheque living, long days, living alone. Mostly though, because I am early on in my journey and my roots in Quakerism are still shallow.

“One especially moving Quaker experience of mine was rewatching the presentation that first turned me on to Quakers. It was called “Decolonizing Land and Soil” ... presented by Alastair McIntosh during CYM [PEI, 2015]. The video of that presentation touches on so many points of interest for me that it completely disarms me and sucks me right in ... watching it brought a deeply felt remembering of the newness of that first contact with the spirit that I experienced when I attended his talk at UPEI. Another Quaker resource that I've been enjoying studying is *[Canadian] Faith and Practice* ... What a beautiful resource to have as a community! And what a blessing to have Friends

who have that gift for articulating precisely how a feeling feels that you haven't ever thought to describe. I hope it will help me stay moored to my heart in the future."

We strongly urge Friends contemplating a visit to PEI and wishing to worship with us to contact the Clerk in advance. Cancellations and occasional relocations are announced on our PEI Quaker Facebook page. Our contact information can be found on the CYM website or by emailing the Clerk at pei-contact@quaker.ca.

SAANICH PENINSULA MONTHLY MEETING

Our small Meeting continues to meet each First Day at the Central Saanich Senior Services Society Building, Brentwood Bay. In 2018 we did not meet during July, when renovations to the meeting space were made. Friends took the opportunity to attend other local meetings and the Island Friends picnic at Fern Street Meeting House, Victoria.

We welcomed three Friends into new membership. One Friend transferred to a meeting closer to her retirement community in the Duncan area. Our average attendance is 10.

In April, we hosted an open house to welcome local Friends to our new meeting place, with about 25 in attendance from other Friends' Meetings and worship groups on southern Vancouver Island.

In November we enjoyed the visit of several "from afar" Friends who were in Victoria to attend a special west coast gathering of Representative Meeting. Occasional other visitors from near (Saltspring Island) and far (Brooklyn, NY) were welcomed.

We continue to value our Meeting as a place and time for worship, personal and collective discernment and mutual aid. Following Meeting for Worship, we share "afterthoughts" and a round-robin check-in and enjoy the enhancement of our fellowship by these activities. A pot-luck refreshment time follows. The ties of friendship both in Meeting and outside of Meeting are of importance to us. We value the wisdom and experience of our many seniors and treasure the presence and experiences of one young Friend.

Approximately monthly we have a worship sharing following shared lunch. Our topics most often arise from recent ministry and afterthought sharings. Recent topics have included 'trees', and 'what we think about during Meeting'. These simple titles do not reflect the complexity and depth of what is shared.

We contribute as a Meeting to several local charities, and individual Friends support many causes. In 2018 we began a process of reviewing our charitable contributions and outreach. This continues. We hope, amongst other things, to initiate engagement with the First Nations of the Saanich peninsula, reflecting our Quaker commitment to the truth and reconciliation process.

SASKATOON MONTHLY MEETING

A Sunday afternoon worship time is working well for us after years of worshipping on Saturday mornings. We are joined in worship by a traveling member of another Canadian Meeting and a long-time attender. We are enriched by their presence.

Three of our four Young Adult Friends have now moved to other cities.

Saskatoon Friends are active in the community. Two Friends have been teaching a creative writing class in the Saskatoon Correctional Facility. One Friend continues to work with Climate Justice Saskatoon and the Council of Canadians. Another Friend continues to work with Gay Friendly Churches, a local ecumenical group.

With the Friend attending Saskatoon MM as a travelling member, there are now two members of the New Roots Community Land Trust among us.

Friends braved a snowstorm in going to Western Half-Yearly Meeting's Fall 2018 gathering.

We are a small group that worships well together.

THOUSAND ISLANDS MONTHLY MEETING

This report is derived from input offered by ten Friends either at a sharing session or provided by e-mail.

As always, the Meeting strives for spiritual growth. Worship has been described by one Friend as being richer and deeper. Vocal ministry and afterthoughts are especially valued. Two Friends feel that we are building a stronger community. There seems to be increasing sociability before and after Meeting for Worship. We are gradually emerging from a difficult period which has been dragging us down.

It appears that the Meeting is welcoming to newcomers who appreciate being able to think about and share issues that have meaning for them. A Friend wrote that she values being part of a community of like-minded people and the opportunities this brings to help with and learn about justice and human rights issues.

A Friend has the impression that the Meeting provides a valuable service to seekers and enquirers who worship with us for a time. These visitors come and go as their lives change. They may not become permanently active but we have no way of knowing what good influence the Meeting has had in the present and may have in the future. In this respect the Meeting plants good seed.

Some of our Friends are active in local interfaith activities. TIMM has written letters of support to local Jewish and Muslim congregations when local and international members of their respective faiths were targeted with hate crimes. A Friend noted that with growing intolerance in our society, it is important to be alert to continue to support those who are victims.

Two Friends mentioned how much they have valued Meetings held at Friends' homes.

The small size of our Meeting can be positive, but the downside is that a very small number of people do much of the work. Clerks can feel overwhelmed with the amount of business.

Although Friends are happy that they are free to explore their own spiritual paths, some newer Friends have expressed a desire to have more guidance. The Meeting may wish to learn how best to meet the needs of new Friends and help them learn what resources may be available to them.

TORONTO MONTHLY MEETING

*How does the spirit of love and truth manifest itself in our Meeting?
Where do we fail to heed its leadings?*

The experience of deep stillness in our Meeting for Worship continues to enrich our Friends and attenders, bringing us also a flow of visitors. Our numbers in Meeting for Worship are increasing. We have started a weekly Children's Program on Sunday mornings. A childcare worker is there almost every week, enabling parents to attend Meeting for Worship. The children join Meeting for Worship for the last ten minutes.

Our Midweek Meeting for Worship also meets weekly on Wednesday evenings, with between three and twelve present. Following about 45 minutes of unprogrammed worship, newcomers have an opportunity to ask questions about Quakerism, the spiritual life, and Toronto Monthly Meeting. Several attenders have come into our Sunday Meetings for Worship following their experience at Midweek Meeting. Two of our members make regular postings on Facebook and Twitter, providing information about who we are and what we do. Our monthly community evenings, while organized by several Young Adult Friends, attract Friends of all ages. There is a potluck supper followed by activities such as board games, juggling, and movies.

The spirit is also manifested in our worship groups. This year meetings of the Downtown Worship Group on the second Wednesday of the month at the residence of a group member have been sporadic. With an aging group, ill health continues to cause cancellations. Nonetheless, the four regular members remain loyal. They value the time they are able to spend together in shared worship, discussion, and tender concern for one another. In 2019, they intend to discern a way forward for this gathering, which has been so important to them. The West End Worship Group is thriving. There are usually about eight to twelve Friends who gather on the first Sunday of the month in the homes of members, and find a deep silence in their worship.

The monthly presentations organized by the Religious Education Committee cover a wide variety of subjects and are informative and spiritually enriching. One of our members enjoys sharing her extensive knowledge of Quaker history. Another member has encouraged our interest in Quaker archives and the Canadian Friends Historical Association. A further manifestation of the spirit in our lives comes through the work of our many committees. The Visiting Committee supports Friends and attenders who, for physical or geographical reasons, are unable to attend Meeting for Worship. Our Quaker Committee for Refugees continues to help more than 200 immigrants and refugees from more than thirty countries, while a second committee, Toronto Friends Sponsoring Refugees, has brought one family to Canada, and now awaits a second and possibly a third family.

We welcome the increasing number and diversity of community groups who rent meeting space at Friends House. The fees we derive from these groups, who share our concerns and values, help us to cover costs involved in maintaining the House. We are thankful for the work of our Resident Friends who model the value of “walking cheerfully over the world” as they warmly welcome more than 120 groups throughout the year. We are thankful also for the expertise and spiritual dedication of the Friends who serve on House and Premises Committee, Personnel Committee, and the Toronto Monthly Meeting Trustees. The efforts of all Friends also enable us to offer hospitality and meeting space to Friends across Canada and Canadian Yearly Meeting committees, and office space to the Canadian Friends Service Committee.

What are some of the challenges we face?

We have both the advantages and the disadvantages of being a large urban Meeting. While we try to give newcomers a warm welcome, we are often too preoccupied by conversations with each other to extend that welcome. This may be one reason that some newcomers do not return. We hope that recent initiatives taken by our Visiting Committee will help us to engage with visitors and new attenders, and welcome them into our Meeting community. We are trying to build a caring community, but we are not always aware when one of our members is in distress or feels a lack of support from the Meeting.

We want to move forward toward reconciliation with our Indigenous neighbours. We held a meeting with Jennifer Preston and adopted a land acknowledgement statement, but we need, and intend, to do much more.

The relationship between the Monthly Meeting and our Peace and Social Action Committee is more distant than the Committee’s Terms of Reference would suggest, and we are unclear whether the actions of the committee are an expression of the Meeting or of individual committee members. At the same time, members of the Peace and Social Action Committee often feel unsupported by the meeting, and the committee needs new members.

The length of our Meetings for Worship for Business has discouraged some from attending. We need to discern the reasons for this concern. Is there a problem in how we handle Quaker process? Has a lack of understanding led to impatience with Quaker process?

We are concerned about the spiritual depth of our Meeting. Some Friends feel that a spiritual dimension is missing. There is a deep desire in our Meeting community to grow both individually and collectively. In 2018 we welcomed two new Friends into membership, but we wonder why many attenders who contribute so much do not also seek to join us. Are we living our lives in accordance with our testimonies? Ways forward will include a Meeting for Learning series held before Meeting for Worship and possibly an annual spiritual retreat.

VANCOUVER MONTHLY MEETING

We in Vancouver Meeting are encouraged by the growth we experienced in 2018. Many new people visited the Meeting and some became regular attenders. We welcomed a number of seasoned Friends who moved to Vancouver from Philadelphia and other places. We are missing a few members who were active and who moved to rural BC as well as elders who are

now seldom able to attend. The warmth of our Meeting – our members and attenders – provides a welcoming space and a spiritual refuge from the harsh realities of our time.

Our Meetings for Worship are often deep and gathered in sacred silence. It is our practice at the end of our Worship to invite those present to share thoughts that may have come to them during the Meeting that did not have the weight of ministry. We believe that providing this informal opportunity to speak allows the preceding silence and ministry in our Meetings for Worship to be deepened.

Our Meeting provides a spiritual foundation for many socially and environmentally active members and attenders. Friends have leadings to work on Indigenous Rights / Truth and Reconciliation, Climate Justice including anti-pipeline activism, as well as concerns about a just peace in the Middle East, Synthetic Biology and Women's Health and Empowerment. We strive to find a balance between an inner spiritual focus and our commitments to make the outer world a better place. At certain times it feels the balance is imperfect.

We have supported several members through major health crises in 2018.

Our Meetings for Worship with a Concern for Business have been well attended, including a number of new young people. We have continued our practice of beginning our Meetings for Business with a member sharing "How and Why I am a Quaker". This provide deeper insights into people who we thought we already knew.

The Meeting continues to wrestle with if, whether and how much formal outreach to do.

To strengthen the social fabric of the Meeting, we have begun to periodically organize social dinners in restaurants in various regions around Metro Vancouver. We again held a single-day retreat in the fall. An evening mid-week Meeting for Worship is now being held in East Vancouver during the non-summer months. This Meeting is open to anyone who wishes to attend.

We held both Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners which were well attended, and in December we also had a beautiful Christmas celebration in the form of a semi-programmed Meeting for Worship.

Vancouver Monthly Meeting is growing and thriving in many ways, as we strive to faithfully attend to the promptings of the Spirit amongst us. We give thanks for the work of the divine Spirit in the life of Vancouver Meeting.

WINNIPEG MONTHLY MEETING

Flocking Behaviour

Different ways of understanding the divine life may occur among us. These differences should not be ignored for the sake of superficial unity. They should be recognized and understood so that deeper and more vital unity can be reached. Convictions which might divide and disrupt a meeting can, through God's grace, help to make it creative and strong. Friends should keep faith and fellowship with each other, waiting in the light for that unity which draws them together in the love and power of God. —This We Can Say—Australian Quaker Life, Faith and Thought

Pigeons fly out from perches under the Arlington Bridge in the winter to swarm and shift together before the eagles return, before the geese fly north above, before the frogs thaw in the sun on the ditch-sides of the rail yards below.

Community is built by being in community, each of us sorting out how we move around one other, support one other, find the right distance and become accustomed to one other. We began looking at what we needed in a worship space again to meet our diverse needs, to welcome children, to accommodate differing abilities, and made plans to test out other spaces. We were also led to begin looking at how to be a loving community, and how we could grow as a healthy community. If one takes on too much without a break, without support, or without taking a turn to be inside the flock the dance disperses.

How much should we turn inward in community and how much to outward influences and opportunities? Integrity led us to co-sponsor the *We are All Treaty People* public event at the Forks, fund affordable housing, support a play called *Deserter*, and work began to equip and partner for music lessons and music camps with the Cross Lake First Nation. Simplicity was studied and led to action and considerate non-action. Equality sought for affordable housing fundraising through the publishing of a book.

Community reached out when we supported the travels of several members and attenders this year including Zaley Warkentin's trip to the Wider Gathering of Conservative Friends in Ohio, Peace built with Karen Ridd's trip to Israel/Palestine with the group Compassionate Listening. We also welcomed new member Robert Miller, and began to prepare to host Canadian Yearly Meeting 2019.

Henry Roy Penner-Findlater was born on February 22. Henry's appearances and ministry in our Meetings for Worship (along with Isabel and Noah and Isaac and all our other young friends) are an ongoing source of profundity and delight. There is a great sense of possibility right now in our meeting like an early summer bird finding their new voice and joyful surprise at what wings can do.

YARMOUTH MONTHLY MEETING

Meeting for Worship is held every Sunday from 11 to 12. This hour of shared silent worship takes place inside our 150-year-old meetinghouse and is the life-blood of the meeting. Friends agree an hour of silent worship leaves them feeling refreshed, cleansed, and rejuvenated. Attendance varies from ten to twenty-five. Our First Day school is held during Meeting for Worship. We are prepared to continue First Day School into the future for the time being. We have two children who attend sometimes. They enjoy the activities we plan for them. The monthly potluck lunch held after the first Sunday of every month is loved by all.

Ministry and Counsel meets on a regular basis. One query or advice is chosen and is read at the beginning of every Meeting for Worship held during that month. This query or advice is also included in our monthly newsletter. This practice brings the queries and advices into the lives of Friends, and hearing it helps us focus and settle into the silence. Another result of this practice is that a wider variety of Friends are feeling lead to share in vocal ministry. We are helped in our spiritual seeking by the presence and the words of others during Meeting for Worship.

Ministry and Counsel has made a renewed effort to let all Friends know that they can reach out for help when they need it; we reminded Friends that committees of care and committees of concern can be very effective ways to both receive, and to offer loving support. Our monthly newsletter has included information that clarifies how these committees work, and how they might be used to guide and support us when the need arises. The newsletter also offers thoughts on spirituality and prayer that friends find uplifting and inspirational. The monthly newsletter is a very important aspect of Yarmouth Monthly Meeting.

The Meeting continues to have a large presence both in the Sparta community, and beyond. Being the only surviving place of worship in the village we find that our fundraising teas and dinners serve as a meeting place for local residents. The Hundred Mile Harvest Dinner in September, the Chili Dinner in March and the Strawberry Social in June not only enable us to make financial contributions to local initiatives, but they serve as wonderful community gatherings. The work involved in running events, in maintaining our meetinghouse and in seeing to the care and support of each other is challenging. We are considering ways to attract new people. Volunteers from outside the Meeting are taking on substantial roles in our fundraising efforts. We appreciate their help and believe this contributes to our efforts at outreach.

We continue to participate in an interdenominational Easter Sunrise Service. The annual Lantern-Floating activity friends organize to remember the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki has been going on for over 30 years now, and continues. One of our members reacted to the October 15, 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change by forming a group to meet and talk about how we can help each other develop resiliency in the coming years. CALL (Community Assets; Living & Learning) now meets regularly at the meeting house to network and share with each other.

Ongoing work to maintain our meetinghouse continues. Generous grants from the Samuel Rogers Trust Fund have allowed us to replace all of the steps on our porch, and to repair and paint the inside of the meetinghouse. Friends agree that removing the distractions of book shelves and bulletin boards from the area where we gather for silent worship restored the simplicity of this sacred place.

A new Worship Group has been formed under the care of Yarmouth Monthly Meeting. Otterville Worship group meets on the last First Day of the month at Woodlawn Senior Centre less than ten miles from Norwich. Many years ago, when our meeting was just starting out, we were a Preparative Meeting under the care of Norwich MM. Knowing this makes the formation of this new worship group all the more gratifying. The Manitoulin Worship Group and the Windsor Worship group are not active at this time.

We are truly grateful for our "Society of Friends." These are difficult times with deeply divisive issues dominating the front pages of the newspapers, politics and conversations on social media. The hour of silent worship every week, and the strong ties among friends the rest of the time bring us the solace and help we need to nourish our faith in the Eternal.

YONGE STREET MONTHLY MEETING

We feel blessed to be able to come to this simple and peaceful meetinghouse to worship together, have fellowship and attend to our various business committees. Our meetings for worship are often rich and rewarding and are felt to be the central focus, from which evolves our

other work. Most First Days we have 15-25 people. Our mid-week Meeting for Worship saw 2 to 4 people. We continued our practice of reading a query on the first First Day of each month, though we are considering in what form this will develop.

Friends at Yonge Street greatly enjoyed participating in CYM-in-Session, which was held in nearby Barrie, Ontario in August. A number of us served on the Local Arrangements Committee, ran errands, provided transportation and generally welcomed Canadian Friends to our neighbourhood. For many YSMM Friends, this was their first experience of attending CYM, worshipping with Friends from across the country, and sampling the many joys of being together. Later in the fall, we welcomed members of CFSC and Education & Outreach who had been in Toronto for their meetings. These interactions enrich and deepen our understanding of Canadian Quakerism.

Yonge Street Meeting has become more formal in some of our practices, such as nominations, defined committee mandates and memberships, and the development and approval of the budget. We are drafting a Safe Nurture Policy for Yonge Street Meeting, which will also guide procedures for hosting Half-Yearly Meeting. While these changes stem from good Quaker practice and right ordering, we also have to discern times when following the Spirit requires flexibility.

Yonge Street Meeting made a number of changes that strengthened our presence in the community and increased accessibility. We have some new attenders, each of whom has found us through different means. We have a large, new sign facing Yonge Street, that boldly states "Quakers," and the time of worship. Our website has been recreated, with large, bright photographs of Friends worshipping and enjoying social time.

We had a marvelous fall day of re-painting the front fence of the Burial Ground, organized by the company doing the construction on Yonge Street. About 30 community and company volunteers joined Friends in working together and then enjoyed a lunch provided by the company.

Yonge Street Meeting has made other commitments to increase our inclusivity. In order to enable parents to participate in Meeting for Worship for Business, without depriving another Friend from participating, we have hired a childcare provider. First Day School continued to be available every Sunday, with a paid babysitter helping the Friend who provided the program. The accessibility lift gets used by worshippers and by community groups which meet at the meeting house. The lift is also frequently used to move refreshments, chairs, storage carts and things that would be hazardous to move on the stairs.

The Peace, Environment, and Social Action Committee (PESAC) continues to strongly represent our Quaker testimonies in the wider community. Through its work with other community partners, the Helping Hands project assisted 200 people coming out of the Newmarket court and over 500 women coming out of the College Park Court to make a less hazardous return to the community. We continue to provide three dinners a year for Inn from the Cold. We were touched when the guests commented on the efforts of Friend, Bert Ross, who had died since the previous dinner, to involve and support YSMM's participation in the program. PESAC has also made good connections with the local Chippewa community, particularly around issues related to safe water systems and protection of the local watershed. We have a Land Acknowledgement which is posted and read at Meetings for Business.

Over the past year, we have sometimes struggled to speak clearly, listen deeply and trust one another. Interpersonal conflicts were hurting our spiritual lives, both individually and corporately. We are now exploring new ways to strengthen Spirit in our faith community, by being more attentive and building mutual trust in order to bridge our differing perspectives and expectations.

The Little Britain Worship Group began meeting in September, after some months of discernment and uncertainty on the part of the Meeting. While the Meeting supports the creation of a worship group in principle, we are not clear about our role in having a worship group “under our care.” What is the best form for expressing our support? Is there a legitimate limit to questions and concerns, so that care and responsibility does not become an exercise in control?

While recognizing our differences, we are ever conscious of our love for one another and the necessity of being attentive and caring for our differing circumstances.

As we enter with tender sympathy into the joys and sorrows of each other's lives, ready to give help and to receive it, our meeting can be a channel for God's love and forgiveness.

Advices and Queries #18

Little Britain Worship Group (LBWG)

Discernment for the creation of this worship group began in 2017. In September 2018, the worship group began meeting weekly in a United Church on Saturdays, so that worship does not conflict with meetings for worship in Newmarket. LBWG currently consists of a single family with three small children. A children's program is provided through the use of paid babysitters. The LBWG has the goal of attracting new attenders, particularly families with young children. The name, Little Britain Quakers, will be used in outreach.