

SPECIAL INTEREST/ACTIVE GROUPS 2019

1] **What is a Basic Income anyway, and do we want one in Canada?**

The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Inquiry report recently recommended a "Guaranteed Minimum Livable Income" - a Basic Income - for *all* Canadians. What exactly do we mean by a Basic Income, and how do peoples' lives change when they are guaranteed an income adequate to live a modest but dignified life? Is Basic Income feasible and affordable in Canada? Are there risks or better alternatives? What about the "undeserving" poor? This is an interactive workshop that gives us an opportunity to explore our attitudes towards one another and to imagine a society that offers everyone economic security. [Evelyn L Forget is a health economist at the University of Manitoba, and author of *Basic Income for Canadians: the key to a healthier, happier, more secure life for all.*]

2] **Creating an Abundant CYM: How can we plan for our future as individuals, and as CYM members?**

Canadian Yearly Meeting needs members to contribute regularly, to financially help plan for a future CYM as generously as possible. We welcome Harold Penner, from Abundance Canada, "a faith-based public foundation that helps Canadians to connect their resources and values with their philanthropic goals." Mr. Penner brings knowledge and expertise on how to support our Quaker organizations, and ensure our personal responsibilities, during our lifetimes, and through our estates upon death. The session will include specific information about immediate or long-term options for gifts in a will. As discussions about money with Friends is not an easy one, Mr. Penner's experience in working with addressing this information in a faith based manner will help guide members and those directly responsible for finances, such as Treasurers of Meetings, learn how to address them. [Harold Penner, Abundance Canada, with Penni Burrell, Clerk, Contributions Committee contributions-clerk@quaker.ca]

3] **Are We Done Fighting?** This workshop will focus on experiential group learning using exercises in Canadian Friends Service Committee's new book: *Are We Done Fighting? Building Understanding in a World of Hate and Division*. Participants will have the chance to learn and practice communication skills, and will discuss practical approaches to difficult and polarizing conversations. [Matt Legge, CFSC Peace Program Coordinator]

4] Quaker Ecology Action Network

5] **Discerning a course of action related to peace concerns.** In response to requests from several Meetings, Service Committee has developed a new resource. Inner promptings often lead Friends to act on a concern. Yet with so many interrelated problems around us, we can easily take on too much. We can get frazzled or burned out, hindering our effectiveness and making social change work burdensome rather than joyful. This workshop will introduce queries and tools developed by Canadian Friends Service Committee to help individual Friends and Peace and Social Action Committees engage in discernment and planning for their social justice work. [Tasmin Rajotte, Matt Legge (CFSC)]

6] **How to keep your charitable status.** Many Meetings are registered charities. This session will cover the basics of how to operate as a charity, including answering your questions about political activities, doing work overseas, and more. Facilitators: [Tasmin Rajotte, Matt Legge (CFSC)]

7] **JOY.** How do we experience joy in our daily lives? How can we become more open to its presence? What hinders us in our awareness of joy? [Kenna Mannos with Jackie Bonner]

8] **Friends' School in Belize - Friends United Meeting work supported by CYM.** The School works with students who did not qualify for high school in Belize, supporting them to become eligible for high school. The School and Belize Friends' Meeting also are working on the issue of human trafficking in Belize, a project supported by Canadian Friends Foreign Mission Board. Adrian and Rosalie are working with Friends' Meeting to improve the quality of teaching and the school infrastructure. [Adrian Bishop and his partner Rosalie Dance (part of a team who are in the middle of a three year term of service with Friends United Meeting (FUM) supporting the Friends' School in Belize) with Jeff Dudiak, CYM's representative on the FUM General Board.]

9] **Meeting the Sunderland P Gardner Lecturer: Etienne Paul Mungombe.** Time for Friends to meet and talk about his lecture entitled: African Refugee Journeys: Listen, Love, Learn, Act.

10] **Healing and Rebuilding our Communities (HROC):** HROC is a healing process developed in post-genocide Rwanda by Friends to enable survivors and perpetrators of the genocide to heal from their trauma. Etienne Paul Mungombe is one of the two trained HROC facilitators in Canada and, with the Friends Church in Quebec, is adapting HROC to the needs of those who have come to Canada as refugees. Learn about HROC and how it may be adapted in Canada to meet the needs of refugees and possibly be a process supportive of other survivors of trauma in Canada, including Indigenous Peoples. [Etienne Paul Mungombe]

11] **Canadian Peace Initiative (CPI)**

Canadian Friends Service Committee was one endorsing body who met with members of CPI to understand the goals, process and consider how to help. As a result our website has been enhanced and maintained and we have created two videos addressing how a department of peace would address current conflicts such as in Syria and the genocide in Rohingya. As a result we have had more public and political response and a graduate student review of the viability of a Department of Peace. Theresa and Matt will provide a short summary including showing one of the 7-minute videos created and facilitate a discussion on "what now?" from a Quaker perspective. [Board Director, Theresa Dunn with Matt Legge of CFSC]

12] **Sacred Chant Special Action Group.** Do you love to sing? Do you want something to soothe rather than prod the mind and heart? Come sing chants in Taizé style: inspiring, uplifting, and undemanding. Simply come with a voice, no musical expertise required. [Bev Shepard]

13] **Presentation by FGC General Secretary TBA**[Barry Crossno]