

CANADIAN PEACE / JUSTICE COMMITTEE
June 2020 Report

The Committee was formed in April, 2007, primarily to support local congregations in our attempts to be “. . . dedicated to the pursuit of peace” and to “Share Christ’s Peace.” The committee was again hampered because: (a) the Chair’s entire time was spent on the Climate Change subcommittee; and (b) we feel we have hit the limit of available volunteer time for subcommittees.

I. ACTIONS THIS YEAR.

A. Created a Climate Change Crisis Subcommittee.

Our primary efforts have been to create and feed into The North American Climate Justice Team. Originally intended to create on Oct. 2020 Colloquy, the team had to pivot and now has an entire series, started this summer and culminating at the in-person Colloquy, Oct. 29-31, 2021. This series includes world-class scientists and other with a deep and wide background in the various facts of the topic.

B. Create Social Media Resources.

We have created a Facebook Page and will continue to experiment with its possibilities. Thanks, Sariah and Betty! We also want to create podcasts and webcasts, to expand our reach.

C. Maintained Our Current Projects and Our Peace / Justice Website.

While not an emphasis this year we have continued support for such endeavours as:

- a. **Indigenous Relations:** We have some key resources, thanks to the address by Barb Oldale at the CWM 2017 Mission Conference, and also Tracy Smith. This is only a start – contact us if interested in helping with reconciliation.
- b. **Maintaining Resources to Develop Healthy Relations with our Muslim Community:** This is centered on a hopeful, nonviolent strategy of trying to strengthen the reasonable voices within our own community, within the Muslim community and among society in general. It includes the opportunity for congregations to engage with their local Muslim community;
- c. **Buying Fair Trade** coffee where possible, which supports the “Abolish Poverty” initiative;
- d. **Expanding the church’s Canadian Peace / Justice website.** Still fairly skeletal. If you see an unfilled area where you would like to help - we would love to hear from you!

D. Phase II - Subcommittees.

In 2014 we transitioned to the 2nd phase – creating **subcommittees** - to raise up and provide resources for those Canadian-specific issues that call us via recent inspired counsel to courageously challenge and help transform societal trends that diminish God’s creation. Further topics include:

- **Mental Health & Eliminating Stigma**
- **Justice: Restorative not Punitive;**
- **Foreign Aid, no strings attached; etc;**
- **Inter-religious Relations;**
- **Human Trafficking close to your Church;**
- **Eco. Concerns: Water, GMOs, etc.**
- **Child Poverty; . . .Others?**
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Note: We have recognized that this phase has stretched our ability to tap into the available volunteer capacity of our Field and thus each year we will focus simply on one or two topics.

II. NEXT YEAR And LONGER TERM.

We remain focused on implementing robust **subcommittees**, as listed above, **but we need help.** If you are interested in being part of this exciting endeavour, please contact one of the committee members.

In appreciation and support,

The Canadian Peace / Justice Committee

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