



Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice

A national faith-based organization founded in support of Unitarian values

Annual Report

May 2018



Metro Vancouver Unitarians in a rally against Kinder Morgan, May 12, 2018

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2018 Annual Report

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AGM Agenda

Monday, May 21, 2018

McMaster University, [MDCL 1009](#), Hamilton, ON

8:30 am Registration, Coffee, Meet & Greet

9:00 am – Chapter and regional group conversations

- What are your local priorities? What are you working on?
- What are we doing at the national level that you value? (newsletter, website, direct lobbying, letter-writing, networking with partners, Climate Action Network Canada, public demonstrations)
- Your level of involvement with climate issues; First Nations issues; democracy issues; poverty issues

10:00 am Annual General Meeting (live streaming begins)

1. **Call to Order, Welcome**
2. **Invocation – Reverend Frances Deverell**
3. **Approval of Agenda**
4. **Approval of May 2017 Minutes**
5. **Chapter and Social Justice Group reports (West to East)**
 - a) Metro Vancouver Unitarians (BC)
 - b) CUSJ Islands Chapter (BC)
 - c) First Church of Victoria
 - d) Nanaimo
 - e) Southern Alberta Social Justice Committee
 - f) Global Justice Working Group, Ottawa
 - g) CUSJ Toronto Chapter
 - h) Hamilton Outreach and Social Justice Committee
 - i) Thunder Bay Chapter
 - j) Québec Regional Chapter
6. **President's Report: Margaret Rao**

7. **Membership Report: Lynn Armstrong**
8. **Financial Report: Gary Campbell**
 - a) **Gary to propose a financial reviewer**
9. **Questions & comments about the Annual Report**
10. **Election of the Executive**
11. **Nominations from the Nominating Committee**
12. **Resolutions**
13. **Other business**
14. **Closing, Announcements and Adjournment.**

11:00 am Keynote speaker Peggy Mason

*More peacemaking, less defence spending:
What a Feminist Foreign Policy for Canada really looks like!*

12:00 pm Comments, Questions, and Discussion

12:30 pm Lunch

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Minutes of the 2017 AGM
CUSJ Annual General Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2017

[Don Heights Unitarian Congregation,](#)
18 Wynford Drive, Toronto, ON

5:00 pm Buffet Dinner, Ghazale Catering

Delicious vegan food! Yummy!

6:00 – 7:00 pm Annual General Meeting

1. **Call to Order, Welcome**

Quorum check

There were 22 in the room, and remotely, four in Ottawa including Treasurer Gary Campbell; seven in Vancouver. So 33 attendees—we have quorum.

Margaret Rao invited Rev. Lynn Harrison to come forward: *It is my honour and delight to invite our Community Minister, the Reverend Lynn Harrison, to deliver the invocation.*

2. **Invocation – Reverend Lynn Harrison**

Rev. Harrison acknowledged the Indigenous land upon which the meeting was taking place.

Rev. Harrison's invocation urged us to seek a new way towards peace, justice and a happy planet. In our search for courage and direction, she pointed us towards the prophets, who sacrificed so much for justice.

Margaret thanked Rev. Harrison.

3. **Approval of Agenda**

Cym Gomery was named minute-taker.

Motion to adopt agenda: Bill Woolverton; Seconded: Frances Deverell. Carried.

4. **Approval of May 2016 Minutes**

Moved: Joy Silver; Seconded: Janis Daly. Carried.

5. **Chapter and social justice group reports**

Lynn Armstrong raised a concern that the West Coast Chapter Report submitted by Leslie Kemp

is not included in the Annual Report currently on our CUSJ website although it is listed in the Table of Contents. Margaret stated that it was in the printed report at the meeting.

Margaret noted that she had received the West Coast Chapter report just the previous night, May 11th.

Margaret asked for a motion to receive the reports.

Moved: Jim Sannes; Seconded: Ron Wilson. Carried.

New chapters announcement

Margaret announced that three new CUSJ chapters were added in the past year: CUSJ Quebec Chapter, CUSJ Islands Chapter (BC), and CUSJ Thunder Bay Chapter (ON).

6. President's Report: Margaret Rao

Margaret read her report *Democracy—Promises to Keep!* She thanked Sally Palmer Woods for agreeing to being on the board. She thanked Philip Symons for doing such a great job with *JUSTnews*.

Moved to accept: Margaret; Seconded: Frances Deverell. Carried.

7. Membership Report: Joy Silver

Moved to accept: Janis Daly; Seconded: Jim Sannes. Carried.

8. Financial Report: Bob Staveley and Gary Campbell

Unfortunately, there were audio-visual problems with the remote connection to Gary Campbell, our current Treasurer, so former Treasurer Bob Staveley read the report.

We are in good fiscal shape, with a balance somewhere close to 10K. We didn't do as many donations as in previous years. Bob requested authorization to donate to three organizations as we have done in the past. Margaret said that we will deal with that in a Board meeting.

Moved to accept: Bob Staveley; Seconded: Ron Wilson. Carried.

9. Questions and comments about the Annual Reports

Online attendees in the West commented that they could not see the Financial reports on the Web site, so the Annual Report online was updated on the spot to rectify this.

10. Report of the Nominating Committee and Election of the Executive: Frances Deverell

Frances welcomed all the new members to the Board. We have 15 board members, four of whom are new, so the challenge will be getting to know all these new people. New board members are: Lynn Armstrong, Leslie Gillett, Sally Palmer Woods, and Gustavo Frederico.

Moved to accept: Frances Deverell; Seconded: Gilbert Salgado. Carried.

Frances Deverell thanked Bob Staveley (who is stepping down as Treasurer, but will stay on as a

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regional rep) and Christina Duvander (who is stepping down) for their years of service.

11. Election of the Nominating Committee: Frances Deverell

12. Resolutions

Crime prevention

Frances moved that we affirm the [brief that she submitted to the CUC](#), which promotes a strategy of crime prevention instead of detention. (**Note:** this is different from the first resolution that was included in the *CUSJ Annual Report* of May 2017.)

Moved to accept: Frances Deverell; Seconded: Sharon Devine. Carried.

Health-centered approach to street drugs

Second resolution regarding a health-centered approach to psychoactive substances, from the *CUSJ Annual Report* of May 2017.

Moved: Frances Deverell, Seconded: Helen Iacovino. Carried.

13. Other business

Hassan Diab resolution

Mary Ann Higgs reminded us that Hassan Diab has been ordered released six times by French Judges and each time it has been overturned. Please sign the petition. Amend the [resolution from last year](#) to ask that he been released.

Moved by Mary Ann Higgs; Seconded: Christina Duvander. Carried.

Note: Bob Staveley mentioned another resolution regarding donations—but, reminding him of the precedent established regarding a similar resolution at last year’s meeting, Margaret tabled that to the next board meeting.

Eighth principle resolution

Janis Daly (President of Don Heights Unitarian Congregation) announced that the Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism organizing collective in the US has put forth to the UUA a resolution to introduce an eighth principle, to affirm and promote:

Journeying towards spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and in our institutions.

Margaret recommended that Ms. Daly bring that resolution to the CUC.

Margaret and Jake's activities

Margaret Rae announced that she and Jake Javanshir had attended two Israeli flag-raising ceremonies at two City Halls in the Greater Toronto area (GTA). The idea of honoring [Israel's Independence Day](#) was introduced by a few City Hall councilors in the GTA, last year.

Margaret and Jake, and the BDS Coalition, were part of a [joint silent witness](#) in solidarity with the Palestinian people, who regard this Independence Day as a *nakba*—a catastrophe. The Israeli government attempts to quash their rallies, in which they raise the Palestinian flag.

Jake drew our attention to a postcard that shows how Palestinian land has been fragmented, and invited people to take copies for distribution.

From a money-centered to a planet-centered paradigm

Margaret held up an infographic to illustrate how a paradigm shift in our thinking would result in us putting the planet at the center of our concerns.

14. Closing, Announcements and Adjournment.

Board members took turns reading from the hymnal, number 586, *The Idea of Democracy*

The meeting adjourned, with all in favour at 7:00 pm EST.

7:15 pm Keynote speaker Tim McSorley

To view a summary of McSorley's speech on the CUSJ.org site, click [here](#).

8:00 – 8:30 pm Comments, Questions, and Discussion

1. Someone commented that the *Security of Canada information sharing act* (SCISA) is little known but bad news for civil liberties.
2. Someone else commented that in Toronto, there is a [Charter Challenge around detention of people in immigration centers](#).
3. Gustavo Frederico commented that the shootings in Québec City have led the National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM) to address the issue of Islam and the 'T word' (that is, Terrorism). He urged people who care to reach out to a local mosque or Islamic organizations, invite people to participate in events, to build bonds of community.
4. Someone commented that National Security oversight and review, having a strong national security review body, would protect against human rights abuses like the [Air India bombing](#).

CUSJ PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2017-18

WORKING TOGETHER: LOVE AND JUSTICE IN ACTION!!

Another year has come and gone and what do we have to show for it? Plenty, as it turns out! Our federal government continues to make and break promises and to stall on commitments to climate action, progressive trade agreements, fair elections, affordable housing, daycare, peace and real security, and a feminist agenda to tackle gender, race, class and other inequalities. Meanwhile, civil society organizations are taking the lead, on the streets, on social media and in the halls of political and corporate power. Ordinary citizens are standing up for democracy and dignity for all beings. It is no coincidence that the Occupy, Idle No More, Black Lives Matter, and the #MeToo and Times Up women's empowerment movements are converging at this critical moment in human history. LGBTQ rights, gender and animal justice, environmental and economic justice, and the global peace movement are interconnecting in new and creative ways.

On a smaller scale, within our own UU congregations, CUSJ Chapters and eco-social justice groups are coming together, determined to protect and serve the interdependent web of which we human beings are but a part. We believe in the inherent worth and dignity of all beings. Unity in diversity! In the words of Lotta Hitschmanova, founder of the Unitarian Service Committee of Canada, "We are all brothers and sisters, aiming at one single goal: to help make this torn, crying, bleeding world of ours a peaceful shrine for everyone; ... Are we not on earth to make it a better, a kinder world for all?" Dr. Lotta's words ring as true as ever in these turbulent, transitional times. As my elder activist neighbour and mentor often opines, "We humans are going in two directions at the same time; it'll be interesting to see how it all turns out." She and I may not live long enough to see that day, but in the meantime, we stand on the side of the willing, as our UU choir often sings at Sunday service;

I am open and I am willing, for to be hopeless would seem so strange.

It dishonours those who go before us, so lift me up to the light of change!

Together, we will support, inspire and lift one another up as UU change makers of the world!

On that musical note, I would like to add that you meet the nicest people when you sit on a Board of justice-minded UUs. One who exemplifies this is Philip Symons, our recently retired *JUSTnews* editor and longest serving member of the Board. Philip's words of advice to our new editor, Leslie Kemp, encapsulate the attitude we need to cultivate for the work ahead; "Enjoy the job - a lot!... If it's not fun it isn't sustainable." On another grateful note, I would like to extend my thanks to Cym Gomery, our webmaster and web editor. Cym's incisive wit and web-savvy ways, raises our website and our consciousness to a whole new level. Cym was also instrumental in bringing the CUSJ Québec Chapter into the fold, adding linguistic and cultural diversity to the mix.

On a final note, I would like to extend my thanks to the entire Board, each of whom is a pleasure to work with and generous with their time and talent, in our common striving for the ‘greater good.’ We would love to grow our team and build a larger UU presence in towns and cities and regions across this vast land. If you feel called to join us in this great endeavour, come ‘on board.’ Together, we will be the change we need to be!

ALLIES IN DEMOCRACY

CUSJ has been signatory to many of our partner organizations campaigns in the past year. Some examples:

- **Democracy Watch:** called on the Commissioner of Canada Elections Act to rule Prime Minister Trudeau violated federal elections law by baiting voters with a false electoral reform election promise.
- **Voices-Voix:** a joint letter to Scott Brison, the President of the Treasury Board to address a number of serious problems in the Access to Information reform bill C-58. This bill fails to extend the ATIA to the Offices of the Prime Minister and Ministers, as promised by the Liberal party during the 2015 federal election.
- The **International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group** issued a Civil Society Statement and open letter to Minister Goodale to amend Bill C-59, *An Act Respecting National Security*, in order to protect our Charter Rights and Freedoms and to ensure our national security agencies do not engage in mass surveillance, including the mass collection and storage of our public information. Dozens of organizations have submitted briefs on Bill C-59, including CUSJ. In the new year, Jack Dodds, (the architect of this and previous national security briefs), and I met with Minister John McKay, the new Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security, in his constituency office.

CRA REFORM

A Liberal-appointed panel issued a report a year ago calling for changes to the Income Tax Act to delete any reference to the political activities of charities. National Revenue Minister Diane Lebovitch stated that the government's response to the report could be expected by summer 2017, but this did not happen. Meanwhile, federal lawyers defended the ‘status quo’ in a recent submission to the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, prior to an April 23 hearing on a Charter of Rights and Freedoms challenge launched by *Canada Without Poverty*. This anti-poverty organization argued that the 10 per cent advocacy rule for charities violates the Charter's freedom-of-expression guarantee. Environmental Defence executive director Tim Gray and representatives of 13 other environmental charities also met with Finance Minister Bill Morneau but there were no commitments made. They concluded that the issue is not a priority for the Cabinet Minister.

ELECTORAL REFORM

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CUSJ supports 100% Fair Vote Canada's federal and PR4BC campaigns for electoral reform. PR is a democratic principle specifying that people should be represented in proportion to the popular vote. Under a PR voting system, no single party would be able to attain a majority government with 40% of the vote. Cooperation and compromise would become the norm. Liphart Arend's work on electoral systems and democracy in 36 countries over 25 years, found that countries with PR had considerably lower levels of income inequality and spent an average of 4.75% more on social expenditures.

This November, British Columbians will have a referendum on PR, as promised by the NDP government and supported by the Greens. Our current Prime Minister had promised a more democratic voting system, but after months of public consultations and hundreds of written briefs to the all-party electoral reform committee, he suddenly and dismissively broke that promise. We are more determined than ever that this needed reform will be a vote-determining issue in the next election.

HUMAN RIGHTS

CUSJ, together with Hassan Diab's Support Committee, (honourable mention is due to Ria Heynen of Ottawa First), were elated to learn of Dr. Diab's release from a French prison in January. We have since written to the Prime Minister and the Justice Minister, asking for a complete review of the Extradition Act and disclosure of the procedures that led to Dr. Diab's dismissal from two universities and his lengthy incarceration, (including house arrest) both in Canada and overseas. The First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa held a homecoming party for Hassan, his wife Rania and their young family, soon after his return. Justice delayed was finally served. Hassan's supporters are calling for a public inquiry into Hassan's ten year ordeal based on baseless allegations, so that no other Canadian experiences this cruel violation of justice.

CUSJ is a longtime supporter of Mohamed Harkat and his wife Sophie as he continues to face deportation to his native Algeria following a Supreme Court decision that the 'security certificate' regime is constitutional. Canada's criminal justice system is long overdue for major reform, especially in regards to the detention of immigrants, refugees, Indigenous peoples and vulnerable individuals. The acquittal of Gerald Stanley in the shooting death of Colten Boushie, with the defence lawyers arguing that the discharge of the rifle was a freak accident, undermines one's faith in the justice system. A public inquiry into this case would bring a measure of justice to this young man's family and community.

ISRAEL – PALESTINE, BUILDING BRIDGES, NOT WALLS

In the past year, CUSJ, a member of the Canadian BDS Coalition, co-signed a letter, calling on the Canadian government to condemn the inhumane treatment of Palestinian prisoners on a hunger strike in Israeli military prisons and to commence incremental sanctions against Israel until such time as detainees are given basic human rights.

CUSJ also joined the Canadian *No Way to Treat a Child* campaign, to highlight the prosecution and ill treatment of children in the military detention system, in partnership with Defense for Children International-Palestine and Amnesty International. CUSJ signed a joint letter calling for the end to

Canada's complicity in such crimes and to hold Israel accountable for grave violations under Article 1 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

More recently, CUSJ was also signatory to a letter condemning Israel's use of lethal force to suppress non-violent protest in Gaza and to demand an independent investigation into the killing and wounding of unarmed protesters by Israeli Defense Forces. CUSJ also wrote a letter to the Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers and Opposition leaders, calling on the Canadian government to denounce Israel's violent suppression of a civilian population and to impose appropriate economic sanctions, including an arms embargo, until such time as the blockade against Gaza, the continued appropriation of the Occupied Territories and the illegal settlement building end.

BUILDING INDIGENOUS & NON- INDIGENOUS RELATIONS

Both Toronto First and CUSJ offered moral and monetary support to the grassroots Indigenous women holding a four month vigil in front of the Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada office. The demand was for federal action on child and youth suicide (#NOMIC, Not One More Indigenous Child). It culminated in a December march, rally and gathering of Indigenous youth, elders and allies. CUSJ members in Ottawa also took part in the Have a Heart Valentine's rally on Parliament Hill, along with 500 schoolchildren, demanding proper funding for education, child welfare and health services for First Nations children on reserve. CUSJ wants right relations with Canada's First Nations, and advocates for justice for murdered and missing indigenous women (JMMIW), land rights, respect for treaties, right to self-government and free, prior and informed consent to natural resource projects on traditional Indigenous lands.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

CUSJ, along with *Canada Without Poverty's* 'Dignity for All' campaign and other social justice organizations, has long advocated for housing as a human right. The federal government announced a national housing strategy but the budget for it is inadequate and relies entirely on provinces, municipalities and private investors to co-invest - plus it won't really bear fruit before 2020. Meanwhile, homelessness in Canada and the rise of the precariat (where employment is increasingly low-paying and precarious), even among the well educated, (many with student debt) is on the increase. The good news for the lowest income earners is that the minimum wage has been raised to \$15.00 in Ontario and elsewhere, and the largest and arguably, least affordable city in Canada, namely Toronto, has implemented inclusionary zoning which requires some affordable housing in new residential developments. Vancouver is on its way to doing the same. Montreal, the second largest city in Canada, has long maintained a more affordable rental housing market but the prospect of becoming a new home owner in any town or city these days, has been greatly reduced for the average family.

The other piece of good news is that the federal government has promised to release a poverty reduction strategy at the end of June. You can sign on with 'Dignity for all' to call and arrange to meet with your MP this month.

There's also good news on the Basic Income (Guaranteed Annual Income) front in Ontario. As income inequality increases and jobs are lost to new technologies and downsizing in an uncertain economy,

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governments are realizing that a good way to fight poverty and increase human health and dignity is to offer a decent wage to low-income individuals and families. The pilot project, enlisting 4000 people, is already making a big difference in people's lives, as did the 'Mincom' project in the seventies, funded jointly by the Manitoba and federal governments under Trudeau Senior. Basic income: a simple solution to myriad problems. Just do it! (Check out cusj.org.)

DAMN THE MEGADAMS

CUSJ wrote a letter to the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, entreating them to cease all activity on the Muskrat Falls hydroelectric project, as it failed to properly consult the Innu and Inuit communities that would be negatively affected, contrary to the *UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. The project is clearly not for the benefit and well-being of the general population. Moreover, journalists and peaceful protesters were arrested at the site for performing their duty to protect the land. On May 7th, Indigenous elders and demonstrators on Parliament Hill were also arrested for breaching the designated barrier, including Raging Granny Ria Heynen (another honourable mention)!

CUSJ also wrote a letter to newly elected B.C. Premier Horgan, calling his decision to proceed with the controversial Site C dam megaproject a betrayal of the people who had voted for him. CUSJ challenged Premier Horgan to take a generational opportunity to advance reconciliation with Indigenous peoples through renewable energy partnerships and shared stewardship of B.C.'s precious land and waters. Mega dams are not a green alternative, as they release large amounts of methane and methylmercury into the atmosphere. There are other, decentralized, alternative energy options.

PIPELINE PROJECTS

On April 17th, CUSJ wrote a letter to Prime Minister Trudeau and Natural Resources Minister Carr reminding them of the Liberal election platform that, "While governments grant permits for resource development, only communities can grant permission." Communities from coast to coast are voicing a resounding 'No', in the courts and on the streets, to this environmentally and economically risky plan. It is not in our 'national interest' to further expand the Trans Mountain pipeline. That Ottawa and Alberta would consider a taxpayer bailout to Kinder Morgan, a Texas-based pipeline company, under threat of a pull-out, adds insult to injury. The Canadian government can expect more protests, blockades and widespread opposition, as well as the Secwepemc Nation and other First Nations and subnational governments having their day in court.

CUSJ also signed on to a civil society letter (60 organizations) to the Prime Minister underlining the Trans Mountain pipeline project's threat to B.C.'s rivers, coastal waters, coastal economy and marine life. We also reminded the Prime Minister of his stated commitment to climate action and meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. For a lively discussion on this controversial issue check out cusj.org.

CLIMATE PARTNERS

Members of CUSJ have also been part of Climatefast, a small activist group, striving to build political will and to persuade politicians to work toward urgent and substantial action on climate change since its inception in 2012. Initially, a lobby group on Parliament Hill during the Harper regime, Climatefast now focuses on lobbying the City of Toronto to fully fund the city's ambitious 'Transform TO' annual and long term plan to reduce carbon emissions by 80% by 2050. We are also focused on the June 7th Ontario election to vote in a climate-action friendly government. Think globally! Act locally!

As President of CUSJ, I have the honour of being a member of the Board of CAN-Rac (Climate Action Network-Reseau Action Climat), a growing network of 100+ climate, faith, youth, health and union member organizations from coast to coast. CAN Canada is currently advising the federal government on its role as the 2018 leader of the G-7. CAN also recently led a delegation of member organizations, including CUSJ member Ahti Tolvanen, to the Climate Change Conference in Bonn. CAN encourages the Canadian government to inspire true leadership and to deliver on its international commitments to the Paris Climate Agreement. Leadership matters, not just to climate activists but to every Canadian and to the world's most vulnerable communities.

PEACE PARTNERS

Longtime Co-Chair of the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace (VOW) and UU, Janis Alton has led delegations of women to the annual Status of Women Conference at the United Nations for over 20 years. VOW's focus is on demilitarization and the inclusion of women in all decision-making processes. This objective coincides with the UN's commitment to reach full gender parity by 2028, especially in peacekeeping missions. VOW was honoured to have Hiroshima survivor, Setsuko Thurlow, leading figure in the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICANW), awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize, as VOW's keynote speaker and one of five peace award recipients at this year's gala dinner. The good news is that 123 nations adopted the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The bad news is that Canada, as a member of NATO, not only boycotted the treaty negotiations but also voted against the UN resolution for a nuclear-free world. CUSJ wrote letters before and after the fact, highlighting our deep disappointment with the federal government and its capitulation to U.S. demands.

Steve Staples, founder of the Rideau Institute and Ceasefire.ca invited peace organizations, including VOW and CUSJ to Parliament Hill to celebrate ICAN's Nobel Peace Prize. A number of Canadian organizations, including CUSJ, became members of the IPB in the past year. As a result, IPB President, Reiner Braun, is coming to Canada in mid-May to meet with us and to network and strategize on next steps for the peace movement.

World Beyond War, a peace organization based in the U.S., will be holding their 3rd Annual Conference in Toronto on September 21-22, culminating in a 'Blue Scarf' march downtown. The Blue Scarf movement, begun by a brave group of women in Afghanistan, stands for a border-free world under one blue sky. Their slogan is 'Enough wars! Enough global warming! Enough inequality!' CUSJ is one of the sponsors. This year's theme is *Designing a World Beyond War: Legalizing Peace*. Medea Benjamin,

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co-founder of CODEPINK, is one of several outstanding speakers on the roster. To find out more, go to worldbeyondwar.org/nowar2018/

NAFTA - DEAL OR NO DEAL?

The North American Free Trade Agreement is ‘less than free, and more than trade’, as my elder activist friend has long maintained. For years we have seen the negative impacts of NAFTA. Chapter 11, the corporate-friendly dispute resolution tribunal, has cost Canada millions of dollars and eroded our environmental and public policies from the start. The latest trilateral report, *NAFTA 2.0: For People or Polluters?* published by the Council of Canadians, Greenpeace Mexico and Sierra Club U.S., details how NAFTA binds all three countries to fossil fuel futures. The report’s economic modelling shows that NAFTA’s energy proportionality rules would lock in 1488 megatonnes more greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. This would preclude any chance of Canada meeting its Paris Agreement commitments on climate change. With Donald Trump’s belligerent ‘America First’ agenda, the auto sector is a key factor in negotiations. The U.S. President is attempting to retool the rules in order to bring jobs and investment back north from lower-cost Mexico. Despite months of talks, the sides remain far apart. To save face before two upcoming elections, the three countries might agree to a NAFTA deal in principle. If this and other corporate-friendly ‘Free Trade Agreements’ come undone, it would not be the worst outcome.

COMER

The Committee on Monetary and Economic Reform is now a member of the International Movement for Monetary Reform (IMMR) with members on every continent! On June 10th, Switzerland will be the first country in the world to have a national referendum (direct democracy) on the introduction of Sovereign Money. If passed, the Swiss National Bank will be the only bank to create money, including electronic money. Commercial banks will no longer be allowed to ‘print’ electronic money. Today, about four-fifths of the money created by private banks flow into the financial markets; only one-fifth ends up in the real economy, where jobs, products and services are generated. The campaign is designed to end the debt-based money system and to limit financial speculation, resulting in booms, busts and taxpayer-funded bailouts. Ironically, the Bank of Canada, upon joining the Bank of International Settlements (BIS), the Central Bank of central banks, in 1974 in Switzerland, stopped lending near interest-free loans to all levels of government for infrastructure spending (including education and health care), and instead began borrowing from chartered banks at compound interest. This unconstitutional change has caused Canada’s debt to skyrocket to over \$1.3 trillion. Canadian governments collectively spend on average \$60.8 billion on interest payments annually. Although the Supreme Court of Canada declined to hear our case, after six years of litigation, we are more determined than ever to restore the Bank of Canada to its original purpose of serving the people of Canada. Tell Minister of Finance Bill Morneau, that we already have a Canada Infrastructure Bank - We don’t need a new corporate-friendly public-private financial institution.

The good news is the monetary and economic reform movement is also growing exponentially. We will take our case to the politicians (contact your MP) and to the people. Inform yourselves by reading Joyce

Nelson's book *Beyond Banksters* which exposes the major players privatizing the world (Blackrock, Goldman Sachs etc.) and those responsible for corporate trade deals such as NAFTA, which will limit our ability to control banks and investment corporations. Hot off the press is Joyce's second book, *Bypassing Dystopia: Hope-filled Challenges to Corporate Rule*. It's an empowering guide to what's wrong with our political economy and what we can do about it.

In the meantime, if you live in or near Montreal, be sure to register for the [June 15-16 conference](#) at Concordia University: *The Future is Public: Building a Pro-Public Movement for Everyone*. With the power of love and justice in action, we will seek less to blame than to find sustainable solutions to our systemic problems. Systems change, not climate change!

Standing on the Side of Love and Justice!!

Your appreciative President,

Margaret Rao

CHAPTER AND GROUP REPORTS

We have seven active chapters and groups. Also, this year, because the AGM is in Hamilton, ON, we include an abbreviated report from the dizzyingly-active Hamilton social justice group, so eight reports in all!

Note: The West Coast Chapter has been replaced by the Metro Vancouver Unitarians.

Metro Vancouver Unitarians (BC)

In Metro Vancouver, we have four congregations: Beacon Unitarian Church in New Westminster, North Shore Unitarian Church in West Vancouver, South Fraser Unitarian Congregation in Surrey, and the Unitarian Church of Vancouver in, yes, Vancouver. All work on social justice issues within their congregations and we also coordinate occasional meet-ups at rallies and marches under the CUSJ banner.

This past year saw Metro Vancouver Unitarians at the Sept. 9 Kinder Morgan rally, Sept. 24 Walk for Reconciliation, Jan. 20 Women's March, Mar. 10th Kinder Morgan action at Burnaby Mountain, May 12th "Don't Bank On It" Kinder Morgan protest and others. There have been so many opportunities this year! We have members among those arrested and facing charges.

On April 7th, a Metro Vancouver Unitarian Gathering was held 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. with a social action focus including a Young Adult Panel after the Ingathering, a singing workshop with Tony Turner and an afternoon session of sharing our congregational social action successes and challenges plus breakout groups on specific issues. Ninety registered for the day and feedback was very positive.

We plan to continue looking for opportunities to collaborate on social action in Metro Vancouver.

- *Submitted by Lynn Armstrong*

CUSJ Islands Chapter (BC)

This chapter met a few times in the fall of 2017, but not since due to the absence of our creative and energetic chair, Leslie Gillett (who abandoned us for Paris, France) as well as the challenge of travelling long distances in winter months. But most of us have been very active in our local Social Responsibility committees, whose activities are described below.

First Church of Victoria

1. Environmental Issues are key, from cleaning up the plastic, to protesting the Kinder Morgan -- by letters and active participation at Burnaby Mountain.
2. Poverty and Homelessness. We have a very active Life Line which offers many people support in a crisis. Also First Church has officially joined GVAT, Greater Victoria Acting Together, which has an ambitious long-term programme.

3. Choices in Dying is ongoing but not very active at this time.
4. Democracy and Proportional Representation has been active in educating Church members.
5. Refugees and Middle East is busy in three areas: First is following up with a single refugee sponsored from Iran; waiting for a large Syrian family; and organizing an appeal. Second is active in a local multi-faith group seeking improvements in the refugee system. Third is supporting Palestinians, such as joining their protests.
6. First Nations support, and, although Outreach is more involved in organizing a LGBT parade, we in the SRC do support them.
7. Sunday Service and Signing of the Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons. On March 25, Dr. Mary Wynne Ashford spoke on the topic. Canada has not yet signed the Treaty. Dr. Ashford brought a petition for signing. It will be presented to the Federal Government later this year by one of our local MPs. either Murray Rankin or Randall Garrison.
8. Last but not least is major fundraising for around six overseas charities in Africa and Asia as well as some local ones, 3 of which are ongoing: Child Haven, one in Sierra Leone and one in Burma.

- *Submitted by Christine Johnston*

Nanaimo

The majority of Nanaimo's efforts have gone to keeping a vital shelter program going. We had a 97% occupancy rate of 30 beds between November 1 and April 7th. We provided safety and security, dinner and breakfast every day with the help of excellent staff. We were particularly proud to negotiate an arrangement with the City of Nanaimo to provide supervised showers every week and this is continuing through the summer when the shelter is closed.

In addition we share the cash in the plate every Sunday with various local charities. Examples include Food Share, Forest and the Femme (a program to give vulnerable women access to the healing powers of the forest) and our own shelter.

Many of our services were on themes that developed our principles in relation to social justice and relationship to the environment.

- *Submitted by Frances Deverell*

Southern Alberta Social Justice Committee

Calgary's Pride parade attracted 60,000 bystanders last September. Calgary Unitarians marched with new non-binary signs and of course 125' of our famous Pride Rainbow Banner, which is now featured in the Canadian Museum of History.

CU's Social Justice Committee includes five members, chaired by Penney Kome. We meet monthly and either present or participate in events about as often. Sometimes we contribute to or take part in Sunday

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services, to raise awareness of certain issues. We had a presentation from the Elizabeth Fry Society, because local women were spending time in jail to pay off fines – in effect, debtor's prison.

SJC presents the William Irvine Award annually to a Calgarian outside our congregation. Last year the award went to Chantal Stormsong Chagnon and her mother, Cheryle Chagnon-Greyeyes, Indigenous organizers who pull together frequent marches, rallies, sing-ins, and other demonstration. This year, it went to The Women's Centre of Calgary, which serves local women with food, social services, training, tax preparation, picture I.D.s, workshops, and even has an artist in residence.

In partnership with CU's Green Sanctuary Committee, we also presented the movie *An Inconvenient Sequel* in January, to a decent crowd. Green Sanctuary presents environmental movies four times a year, drawing the local permaculture crowd. We had author and filmmaker Silver Donald Cameron present and discuss his documentary, *Green Rights: The Human Right to a Healthy Planet*.

SJC presented four after-service Forums, where we screened TED Talks and then invited conversation. We set up letter-writing tables on subjects like Electoral Reform, increasing social assistant benefits, and not deporting a local refugee. We signed up climbers and financial supporters for the Alberta Wilderness Association's annual Climb for the Wilderness. Our RE program also raised money by having our children climb stairs here in our own building, for pledges which were then donated to the AWA.

We ordered a table banner from CUSJ. (Hint, hint.) We've been approved to order a new parade banner that displays the Calgary Unitarians' updated branding. We're looking at something like feather banner, in the new CU colours, with the new CU symbol at the top. The symbol would show above the crowd without requiring two people to carry it, and the whole device could be put into a stand on the floor or in the ground. Has anyone tried out this kind of banner? They are very lightweight but could be awkward in a wind. We're thinking a flag holster might help.

Respectfully submitted,

Penney Kome, Chapter chairperson

Global Justice Working Group, Ottawa

This group hosted numerous events in 2017:

- Bill Van Iterson organized three events on *The UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People* with the assistance of an Indigenous lawyer.
- We installed plaques noting that The First Congregation of Ottawa is on Unceded Algonquin Territory; these plaques were written in three different languages – English, French and Algonquin.
- We organized a Holtom Lecture: *Eliminating Violence in Our Homes and Our Streets* presented by Prof. Irvin Waller and assisted by Frances Deverell. (March 7)

- On April 23 Ria Heynen organized a lecture on *The Pathway to Education* by Brent Kaesler. We have financially supported this organization for many years and Ria's husband has served as one of the tutors to the students.
- On May 9 we had a Colonialism Event showing the film *The Pass System*, which dealt with the time from 1886 to 1951 when the First Nations people were not allowed to leave their reserves without the approval of the White Agents. Aboriginal university student Monique Monatch and Palestinian Prof. Nadia Abu-Zahra were there to answer questions also to show the similarities with the Colonial System in The West bank and Gaza.
- On June 25, we invited Joan Kuyek, Founder of Mining Defence Canada, to give the Sunday Service about Algonquin Land Defenders. She spoke about her work defending Barriere Lake from being taken over by a mining company.
- On October 25 Ria and Anita organized an event on *Prisoners and The Penal System* with Prof. Piche and Aboriginal former prisoner and now criminology student Dan Parlow.
- On November 22 Ria and Anita organized an event called *100 Years After the Balfour Declaration* with Corey Balsam (new National Coordinator of IJV), Prof. Nadia Abu-Zahra and Dr. Peter Larson on the panel. We also showed a film recently prepared by IJV on this topic.
- On December 10 Bob Stevenson organized a meeting on Canada's Military Policies.

We are putting together a group to work on our Justice system and how it affects Indigenous people and especially the over-representation in our prisons; to be led by Bill Van Iterson. On April 15 2018, we hosted an Indigenous lawyer Denise Anne Boissoneau, who addressed this issue.

We will be assisting Gustavo Frederico to visit Grassy Narrows in May.

We also plan to work with the [Tungasuvvingat](#) Inuit Center here in Ottawa.

p.s. The GJWG spent endless hours protesting and bombarding the PM' office with phone calls on behalf of Hassan Diab. The government finally listened and the congregation held a huge welcome party for Hassan and his family upon his safe return to Canada, which hundreds of people attended.

Anita MacLean, Chapter Chairperson

CUSJ Toronto Chapter

Members: Douglas Buck, Kate Chung, Eryl Court, Jack Dodds, Beth Guthrie, Tony and Helen Iacovino, Wendy Oonpuu, Margaret Rao, Gilbert Salgado, Ted Wood

The Toronto Chapter of CUSJ maintains a bulletin board listing local events and actions, as well as national and international news. We post articles and events to the Eco-Social Justice and Green Team listserv and on 'First Light'. On occasion, we staff a Sunday table with information, letters and petitions.

We raised the CUSJ banner at Climate, Indigenous and International Women's marches and pro-Democracy, pro-Palestinian and anti-racist rallies. Longtime Raging Granny, Kate Chung and newly inducted granny, Margaret Rao, shared the podium at this year's science-friendly, 'Evidence for Democracy' rally.

CUSJ Toronto Chapter works closely with Climatefast, a locally based activist group which meets regularly at Friends' House (Toronto Quaker Meeting House). We recently helped staff an Earth Day table at Nathan Phillips Square, with postcards and letters and sign-up sheets to encourage public

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participation in deputations promoting the full funding of [TransformTO](#) staff's recommendations for reducing carbon emissions 80% by 2050. Think globally and act locally!

Having lost my technical assistant to Ottawa First, we did not continue our Eco-Social Justice Sunday film series this year. We are planning to screen one film in June: *Sea of Life* by young, award-winning Canadian filmmaker Julia Barnes.

Toronto First and the CUSJ national Board offered moral and monetary support (CUSJ-\$150.00) to the grassroots Indigenous women holding a 24/7 vigil over a four month period in front of the Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada office. The demand was for federal action on child and youth suicide (#NOMIC Not One More Indigenous Child). It culminated in a December march, rally and gathering of Indigenous youth, elders and allies. Sadly, one of the three women who started the vigil, beloved Toronto activist Carrie Lester, succumbed to cancer in the new year. As a warrior for peace and justice, Carrie leaves a lasting legacy for those who continue the struggle for truth and reconciliation.

A few CUSJ Toronto Chapter members are also active members with the Reconciliation Working Group. We look forward to taking part in the upcoming congregational scrupling session based on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action.

In 2017, Jack Dodds coordinated the submission of briefs on national security legislation bills C-22 and C-23 to the Commons Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security. He and I met in the new year with MP John McKay, the new Chair of the Committee. He accepted CUSJ's brief on Bill C-59 '*An Act Respecting National Security Matters*' but declined our request to appear before the Committee before second reading of the bill.

Margaret Rao, Chapter Chairperson

Hamilton Outreach and Social Justice Committee

The OSJ Committee is proud of the work done by the congregation to make social justice a more integral part of the fabric of the church. Volunteers, ministers, staff, Board and committee members, and congregants all kept social justice at the forefront in their planning and activities.

While this report focuses on the activities of the OSJ Committee, there was equally as much activity happening beyond the Committee's bounds, such as the Spring Plant Sale that raised funds to support social justice at our church. And the annual Haiti activities that support the Hôpital Albert Schweitzer. And the many ways that the Worship Committee wove social justice themes into the worship calendar, just to name a few...

On behalf of the OSJ Committee members – Jennifer Askey (Board rep), Monica Bennett, Pat Dickinson, Bill Johnston, Jennifer Kaye (Chair), Gail Rappolt, and Pat Trudeau (Intern Minister) – thank you to everyone who played a part in this year's successes.

The Hamilton OSJ Committee had these subcommittees:

Sexual and Gender Justice Subcommittee (contact is Monica Bennett)

Affordable Housing Subcommittee (contact is Bill Johnston)

The Affordable Housing Subcommittee works to ‘serve the community’ and ‘inspire action that heals the world’ by working to increase opportunities for low-income residents of the City of Hamilton to gain access to safe, appropriate, affordable housing and the related services they may need to remain housed. The subcommittee will be mindful that its members and volunteers have to ‘nurture each other’ to sustain this work.

Much of 2017 was focused on raising money to support the affordable housing agency the subcommittee has chosen to work with to advance its mandate, Sacajawea Non-Profit Housing Inc. The subcommittee held a housing-focused worship service and a well-attended event to engage the public in a discussion of affordable housing. It also approved its mandate and named a second co-chair.

For 2017, the Affordable Housing Subcommittee consisted of Sarah Ayerst, Paula Bourner, Ruby Brauen, Bill Johnston, Bruce MacPherson, Sheila McAllister, Margaret McFadyen, Kath McIntyre, Catherine Schuler and Mel Webber.

Eva Rothwell Centre Partnership (Pat Dickinson and Gail Rappolt)

The Executive Directors at Eva Rothwell, Sam Campenella and Matt Kelly, appreciate the commitment shown by First Unitarian Hamilton’s loyal volunteers over the past 2 ½ years. In 2017 we continued to work with the children in both the Breakfast Program and the Literacy Express, we took a leadership role in the Clothing Room, made a significant contribution to the summer camp program and expanded the children’s gardening program under the leadership of Joanne Tunncliffe. We also had great support from the congregation on a brutally hot June day to generate nearly \$1000 for EVA at a yard sale. And an even larger amount (approx. \$1500) was raised in gift cards, food items, and warm gloves as part of the Children and Youth Religious Exploration (CYRE) Holiday Giving Tree.

UU-UNO (submitted by Nancy Willson and Sarah Ayerst)

Blooms for Africa (submitted by Doreen Knol and Gail Rappolt)

Blooms for Africa Grandmothers to Grandmothers group entered our 12th year in 2017 as a part of the congregation’s social justice work. Blooms’ mission is to support African Grandmothers and their AIDS-orphaned grandchildren by doing education and outreach about their situation and fundraising for their community projects through the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

We continue to benefit from the support of congregants who volunteer and attend Blooms events, indicating that this work is viewed as a significant part of the social justice commitment of this church.

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Thunder Bay Chapter (New in 2017)

We applied to become a chapter in March 2017 and were accepted in April.

Our members were interested in a variety of social justice issues but did not have much actual experience in activism. We therefore decided to begin by educating ourselves and our congregation. Our members also decided to focus on local issues. Since then we have held monthly meetings and written articles about CUSJ and various issues for the monthly church newsletter. In November we invited members of our congregation to a meeting where the speakers were two long-time activists in the area of Medical Assistance in Dying.

Sally Palmer Woods, Chapter Chairperson

Québec Regional Chapter (New in 2017)

The CUSJ-Québec Regional Chapter celebrated its first year of existence in May 2018! This chapter brings together CUSJ members from three Quebec communities: [Lakeshore UU](#) in Pointe-Claire, the [Unitarian Church of Montréal](#), and [UU Estrie](#) in the Eastern Townships.

After our founding meeting in April 2017, we met six times, using Zoom, since we are geographically quite far apart. We did make it out to our Easternmost members' territory in July 2017, where we enjoyed the annual UU Estrie picnic.

Our chapter has chosen to focus primarily on local environmental issues; poverty; and social inequities.

Environment

We are lucky to have a few good journalists in our chapter. One of them, Rachel Garber, published an op-ed piece in the *Journal regional Le Haut St-François* on Hydro's Northern Pass project to run aerial lines in environmentally sensitive areas around Mont Hereford in order to sell electricity to New Hampshire. The project was ultimately cancelled.

We all participated in demonstrations, social media petitions and letter-writing efforts protesting the Kinder Morgan Trans-mountain pipeline, and as I write this, the Kinder Morgan CEO has suggested that the pipeline has been declared "untenable"--the beginning of the end for Big Oil?

Members of CUSJ participated in ringing of the bell 400 times at UU Estrie, to mark Earth Day on April 22, 2018. They also distributed a small kit on reducing plastic pollution.

We were gratified by the Couillard government's announcement last July that it supports Anticosti's claim to be listed as a world heritage site and that oil exploration on the island is to end definitively.

Peace

CUSJ members responded in September to Rideau Institute and Ceasefire.ca's appeal to support their efforts around the UN Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty. We celebrated the International Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) victory in getting 122 nations to sign the Treaty in July 2017. Canada has yet to sign.

CUSJ members responded in September to Rideau Institute and Ceasefire.ca's appeal to support their efforts on behalf of the Nuclear Ban Treaty. On Sept. 21, Rev. Carole Martignacco organized a Vigil for Peace at UU Estrie to mark the International Day of Peace. As observance of UN Sunday on October 22 we held a service on the CUC-recommended theme *Arm in Arm: Interfaith Action to disarm our Planet*. Dr. Charles Larson spoke on dimensions of the nuclear threat, including cover-ups of nuclear accidents; one little-known such incident occurred in the state of Washington. We circulated Canadian Voice of Women's petition to P.M. Trudeau, Chrystia Freeland and others on the Nuclear Ban Treaty. Adele has written to MP Marie-Claude Bibeau and to Marc-André Blanchard, Cdn Ambassador to the UN on this issue; other members have sent emails on this and other issues taken up by CUSJ.

Social Justice

- We called, wrote and/or e-mailed the Prime Minister on behalf of Hassan Diab, extradited and imprisoned in a Paris jail, and were exultant when he was freed unconditionally in January 2018.
- John wrote a letter on attitudes towards mental illness and the lack of support for those so afflicted, which was published in the Record and in the Stanstead Journal. He subsequently became a regular columnist for the BuryImage.
- On Amnesty International's Write for Rights Day in December 2017, CUSJ members participated in the writing sessions at our respective churches.
- Our LUUC members have been very active in committees and initiatives to sponsor refugees and to help the many asylum seekers arriving in Québec, and Sheila Laursen, in particular is a veritable dynamo on this dossier.

Bonus: Romance

Our chapter has the distinction of having two of our members--John Mackley and Rachel Garber--marry in the course of the year. Congratulations to both these lovely people!

Cym Gomery and Sheila Laursen, Chapter co-chairs

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BOARD REPORTS

Membership Chair's Report

Joy Silver looked after our membership records for many years until her very thorough handover to me on September 11, 2017. Thanks Joy.

The number of members in good standing eligible to vote at our May Annual Meeting is 140* effective May 12, 2018.

*Compared to 136 last year.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Armstrong, Membership Chair

JUSTnews Report for 2018

Leslie Kemp has taken over as editor of *JUSTnews* following the longstanding tenure and formidable footsteps of Philip Symons. This year, we plan to report on congregational activities related to social justice and to create feature issues on Indigenous reconciliation and housing. Your suggestions about newsletter content as well as specific ideas are most welcome. In addition, *JUSTnews* is seeking people from across Canada to serve on the *JUSTnews* Editorial Committee. Please contact Leslie at justnews@cusj.org if you are interested in participating or to share your ideas.

Submitted by Leslie Kemp

WebMaster's Report

Note: I have been presenting a Web report at each of our monthly Council meetings. To view recent reports, click [here](#).

Front end

The most active categories in the past twelve months were:

- Climate Change, particularly news of the ongoing protests against the Kinder Morgan Transmountain pipeline;
- Criminal justice and Human rights, this being the year that Hassan Diab was freed unconditionally and returned to Canada;
- Nuclear disarmament, because of the ICAN victory;

- CUSJ organizational news and chapter activities

Board members occasionally make suggestions for the menus, links, and overall aesthetic of the site, which is much appreciated.

Back-end

- I back up the site and update plugins manually each month before our Board meeting.
- I had some ongoing problems with the social media (SMAP) plugin, which I reinstalled more than once, which involves creating and configuring a Facebook app each time. Currently it is not working properly but I am doing without.

Social media

- The CUSJ Facebook page has 336 members, compared to 313 last year. We recently changed our settings to a “public” group in order to have more visibility. We get a fair number of requests from people I don’t recognize, and/or who do not fill out the information form, and these I decline.
- CUSJgroup still exists, but I didn’t post on Twitter much in the past year.

Cym Gomery, Webmaster

Listserv Manager’s Report

CUSJForum Google Group

There are currently 79 members on our Listserv, up 5 from 74 members from last year, My duties have been happily limited to signing members onto the list and taking them off for a duration while they are on vacation. I have not had any requests for removal.

My duties have been to monitor electronic discussion between members, ensuring that correspondence including opinions are stated respectfully.

World events continue to dominate lively discussions and national concerns generate requests for action in the form of letter-writing and petitions. Correspondents offer many resources that include Youtube videos, newspaper articles, journal articles; lectures and personal experiences and opinions.

I enjoy having a personal presence with our listserv members when responding to their concerns, queries; and requests.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joy Silver, Listserv Manager

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Nominating Committee Report

The nominating committee was made up of Bob Stevenson (chair) (Ottawa) and Frances Deverell.

The committee is pleased to report that all current members agreed to stay on for another year, with the exception of Philip Symons who is having a well-deserved rest after serving seven terms on the board. A huge thank you to Philip for his excellent job all these years as Editor of *JUSTnews*.

Thanks to all members for their dedicated service. The focus of the nominating committee this year has been to move new people into some of the important positions. Next year we hope to focus on recruiting new members to the board. Nominations or Volunteers from the floor are welcome.

CUSJ BOARD 2018-19

Role - Executive	Name and Email	Portion of current two-year term served	Number of terms served	Predecessors
President	Margaret Rao president@cusj.org	Two years	7 terms (14 years)	Frances Deverell
Vice-President	Andy Blair vp@cusj.org	One year	3 terms (6 years)	Bill Woolverton
Secretary	Sally Palmer-Woods secretary@cusj.org	Two years	1 term (2 years)	Marlene Koehler & Alastaire Henderson
Membership	Lynn Armstrong membership@cusj.org	Two years	1 term	Joy Silver
Treasurer	Gary Campbell treasurer@cusj.org	Two years	1 term	Bob Staveley
Regional reps				
British Columbia (5)	Leslie Kemp justnews@cusj.org	<i>JUSTnews</i> Editor one year	half term	Philip Symons
	Joy Silver listserv@cusj.org	Listserv – two years	5 terms	
	Frances Deverell frandev66@gmail.com	Past Pres – one year	5 terms	

	Bill Woolverton bwoolver@shaw.ca	Past VP – two years	3 terms	
Prairies (2)	Sally Palmer-Woods	See above		
	#2 Vacant			
Ontario (4)	#1 Jim Sannes sannes@wightman.ca	Two years	3 terms	
	#2 Bob Staveley stavesbob@ncf.ca	One year	6 terms	
	#3 Ellen Papenburg sagittaep@gmail.com	Past Webmaster One year	4 terms	None
	#4 Gustavo Frederico gcsfred@gmail.com	Two years	1 term	
Québec (2)	Cym Gomery webmaster@cusj.org	Webmaster Two years	2 terms	Ellen Papenburg
	#2 Vacant			
Maritimes	#1 Andy Blair	See above	See above	
	#2 Vacant			

We thus have 14 board members, 5 on the exec and 9 Regional members.

Atlantic Region 1 (1 + 0); Quebec 1 (1+ 0); Ontario 6 (2+ 4); Prairies 1 (1+ 0); BC 5 (2+ 3)

We are also pleased that former board member, Ahti Tohivanen, has been our representative at world climate talks. Jack Dodds has submitted briefs on our behalf on Security issues.

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RESOLUTIONS

Status of 2017 resolutions

As you may recall, last year's resolutions were to lobby the government to:

1. **End the practice of solitary confinement in our prisons and mental health institutions;**

Status: There was a bill to limit segregation to 14 days, and in January 2018, the BC Supreme court declared administrative segregation to be unconstitutional.

2. **Develop strategies to reduce the numbers of indigenous women and men in jail by 50% within the next five years and reduce the rate of incarceration for indigenous people per 100,000 to the rate for non-indigenous Canadians by 2030;**

Status: The private members' [Bill C-262](#), which outlines the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, just passed its second reading.

In its [calls to action](#), the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada has recommended that the federal, provincial and territorial governments make a commitment to eliminate the over-representation of Indigenous people in custody over the next decade.

3. **Focus its priorities and resources on programs proven to reduce crime.**
4. **Shift the responsibility for drug policy from the purview of Criminal Justice to that of Public Health.**

Status: The letters and surveys that some CUSJ members wrote seem to have borne fruit, since a recent news item has it that the Liberal party is [considering decriminalizing](#) all illicit drugs.

2018 Resolution - Amnesty for Cannabis Convictions

Whereas:

- a) The prohibition of cannabis since 1923 in Canada has resulted in the conviction of hundreds of thousands of Canadians for simple possession of small quantities for personal use;
- b) Marijuana is in the process of being decriminalized in Canada. Bill C-45, The Cannabis Act, had second reading on March 22 2018.
- c) Canadians and Canadian residents should not be burdened with a criminal record based on outdated and indeed mistaken laws, that have been overturned;
- d) There is a campaign to grant official pardon to those with a simple cannabis possession conviction on their records;
- e) The individuals who are most impacted by the criminalisation of cannabis are vulnerable, marginalised and racialised members of society;
- f) The second UU principle calls for justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.

Be it resolved that:

- A. CUSJ publicize this situation on our web site, so that members have access to [the facts](#);
- B. That CUSJ sign and share the [petition](#) from the Campaign for Cannabis Amnesty;
- C. That CUSJ make a donation to [this campaign](#) and share this campaign with our chapters;
- D. That CUSJ will support any similar campaign or petition in the future.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

For the Year ending March 31, 2018

Ten fewer congregations paid to support CUSJ last year, compared to the year before. That was offset by an increase of 15 new members. Even with the increased participation from members, our income was reduced by \$769. With a larger set of donations, \$3,500, to worthy causes we ended up with a deficit of (\$634). In the previous nine years, we experienced three other small deficits. Mostly we enjoyed small surpluses over a \$1,000 and as high as \$2,500. Due to our previous surpluses, available funds for social action only dropped about 6%, from \$10,833 last year down to \$10,199.

Ten year summary of CUSJ finances

YEAR	REVENUES	EXPENDITURES	SURPLUS (DEFICIT)
2017-2018	9,682	10,315	(634)
2016-2017	10,451	7,933	2,518
2015-2016	9,357	8,224	1,133
2014-2015	11,367	12,046	(679)
2013-2014	12,549	11,684	865
2012-2013	11,858	8,436	3,422
2011-2012	8,560	8,912	(352)
2010-2011	10,202	8,248	1,954
2009-2010	10,752	8,341	2,411
2008-2009	5,618	7,205	(1,587)

Balance sheet

Assets	2017/2018	2016/2017
Cash in Bank - chequing	\$1,686.04	\$2,387.47
- Saving	\$3,093.31	\$3,088.70
Term deposit - Maturity July 10	\$2,159.98	\$2,135.42
- Maturity Nov. 02	\$3,245.12	\$3,206.64
Share account	\$15.00	\$15.00
Total Assets	\$10,199.45	\$10,833.23
Net Worth	\$10,199.45	\$10,833.23

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Payments from Congregations, fiscal year 2017/18

We wish to express our thanks to these congregations for their payments to CUSJ in the past fiscal year. And thank you to the members who sustained CUSJ.

Month	Number	Congregations	Payment	Members	\$
April 2017	1	Unitarian Fellowship of Peterborough	\$115	43	\$2,510.98
May	0	-none-	\$0	17	\$1,225.00
June	2	Unitarian Fellowship of London	\$68	29	\$520.74
		Grand River Unitarian Congregation	\$160		
July	0	-none-	\$0	4	\$162.22
August	0	-none-	\$0	2	\$98.25
September	0	-none-	\$0	8	\$507.26
October	1	Kingston Unitarian Fellowship	\$100	10	\$587.43
November	0	-none-	\$0	9	\$441.63
December	3	First Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo	\$70	6	\$431.53
		Don Heights Unitarian Congregation	\$200		
		First Unitarian Church of Victoria	\$200		
January 2018	4	Unitarian Fellowship of Kelowna	\$100	0	\$0.00
		Unitarian Congregation of Niagara	\$50		\$0.00
		Unitarian Fellowship of Northwest Toronto	\$12		\$0.00

		Unitarian Congregation of Guelph	\$50		\$0.00
February	1	Unitarian Fellowship of Peterborough	\$56	1	\$96.80
March	2	Unitarian Church of Montreal	\$145	8	\$458.66
		The Unitarian Church of Vancouver	\$340		
Total for the year	14		\$1,666.00	137	\$7,040.50

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Statement of revenues and expenditures

Revenues	Year 2017/2018		Year 2016/2017	
Individual Members	\$7,470.50	(137 members)	\$7,210.93	(122 members)
Congregation payments	1,716.00	(14 congregations)	2,673.00	(24 congregations)
T-shirt & Banner misc. sales	50.00		179.00	
Banner and postage	145.00		67.14	
Dinner sales	0.00		.00	
Transfer from Business chequing	230.00		5.00	
Credit Union Interest – Chequing	2.50		2.09	
- Investment	4.61		14.30	
- Certificates	63.04		82.45	
Misc. Revenue – movie	0.00		216.50	
-PayPal	0.00		.13	
TOTAL REVENUES	\$9,681.65		\$10,450.54	
EXPENDITURES				
JUSTnews – Printing	\$1,393.48		\$2,602.26	
- Mailing	1,624.12	Tot. JUSTnews	1,682.79	Tot JUSTnews
- Canada Post Returns	10.78	\$3,028.38	0.00	\$4,285.05
Donations – Justice Org.	3,508.86		650.00	

Admin & General Exp.	107.60		334.78	
Corporation Canada	20.00		20.00	
AGM – Room Rental &	226.62		0.00	
- Diner cost	155.00			
- Coffee etc. (included)	0.00		0.00	
- Travel for President	0		1,000.00	
- Speaker honorarium	358.20		300.00	
- Speaker’s notes copy	0.00		0.00	
- Printing -annual rep.	0.00		97.16	
- Livestream	0.00	Total AGM	0.00	Total AGM
-Speaker travel	469.46	\$1,209.28	0.00	\$1,397.16
Travel for President to UN	836.15			
Credit Union service charge	0.00		17.00	
FUZE -Board conference call	0.00		0.00	
Website Maintenance	241.25		665.65	
Zoom charges for 1 year	130.79		270.89	
Purchase of new CUSJ banners	1,233.12		292.27	
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$10,315.43		\$7,932.80	
NET OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-(633.78)		\$2,517.74	

Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice
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Donations by CUSJ in 2017-18

Organization	Date Sent	Amount
ACORN Canada (Ottawa)	2017-06-28	\$100.00
Amnesty International	2017-06-28	\$100.00
Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives	2017-06-28	\$100.00
Canadian Drug Policy Coalition, Applied Research in Mental Health and Addictions	2017-06-28	\$100.00
Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East	2017-07-24	\$200.00
Canadian Voices of Women for Peace	2017-06-28	\$100.00
Climate Action Network Canada	2017-06-28	\$100.00
Democracy Watch	2017-12-12	\$100.00
Extradition Legal Defence Fund	2017-06-28	\$500.00
Fair Vote Canada	2017-06-28	\$100.00
International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group (ICLMG)	2017-06-27	\$500.00
Justice for Mohamed Harkat Committee	2017-06-28	\$300.00
KAIROS	2017-06-28	\$100.00
Public Response	2017-07-15	\$600.00
Toronto350	2017-12-12	\$250.00
UU Animal Ministry	2017-06-28	\$108.86
Voices-Voix Communications	2017-06-28	\$100.00
World Wildlife Fund Canada	2017-05-28	\$50.00
Total Donation		\$3,508.86

