

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



CPJ staff at our new house on MacLaren Street in downtown Ottawa in February 2020. (Back row: Brad Wassink, Michael Krakowiak, and Keira Kang. Front row: Karri Munn-Venn, Natalie Appleyard, and Willard Metzger.)

PUBLIC JUSTICE IN A PANDEMIC

A MESSAGE FROM CPJ'S BOARD CHAIR

Throughout the 2020 pandemic year, the staff and Board of Citizens for Public Justice have continued to act for justice in Canadian public policy. I thank our executive director Willard Metzger and our innovative, imaginative staff for continuing their work from their homes, often with the distractions of family life.

I am fortunate to take over the position of chair of the Board from Rev. Jim Dekker, who skillfully led the Board for six years. He led CPJ through the purchase of what will become a “Justice House.” Jim also served on the Personnel Liaison Committee, Nominations Committee, and the Program Advisory Committee. He left the Board in a strong position, with skilled members from coast to coast. Thank you, Jim.

The other directors who left the Board in 2020 included Patricia Fitzmaurice from Winnipeg, who offered sound advice from her legal background. She was a member of the Financial Development Committee and previously served on the Program Advisory and Nominations Committees, as well as the Special Funding Task Force. Wayne Groot from Edmonton also completed two terms on the Board and gifted us with practical wisdom. He was a member of the Nominations Committee and Finance Committee and previously served on the Program Advisory Committee.

We also welcomed to the Board Charles Kooger, a retired pastor from Regina; Michael DeMoor, a university educator from Edmonton; and Marlene Bergsma, a print communicator from Wellandport, Ontario.

In February 2020, CPJ completed the move to the MacLaren Street house. Fortunately, the computer and telephone systems were in place before pandemic lockdown, allowing staff to successfully and safely work from their homes.

CPJ's staff ably adjusted to campaigns online. Policy analyst Natalie Appleyard presented a virtual *Chew on This!* campaign in October, ending with an e-rally on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Karri Munn-Venn collaborated with KAIROS Canada and others to present five *For the Love of Creation* webinars in November. A written report, *Continuing Welcome: A Progress Report on a Half Welcome*, was authored by Stephen Kaduuli, CPJ's refugee rights policy analyst.

Keira Kang, our talented intern, finished her position in September. She planned and hosted the podcast *The Intern Exchange* and wrote a report *Restoring Indigenous Rights*.

The Board has been diligently engaged in developing statements affirming CPJ's commitment to equity and justice for all marginalized people. This is of real relevance, in light of incidents of racism and the ravages of the pandemic on people living in poverty and vulnerability.

Due to the support of CPJ by the staff, Board, members, and amazingly generous donors, CPJ has thrived and showcased “Public Justice in a Pandemic.” Thanks be to God.

—Cherilyn Spraakman

CPJ began 2020 with a flurry of activity, and a renewed focus on the overlap between our three key policy areas. In January, our socio-economic policy analyst Natalie Appleyard organized *Seeking Justice: In the City, In the Church*, a one-day conference in Ottawa. This conference explored how justice issues are often manifest in our cities, communities, and church institutions. Participants explored issues such as racism, reconciliation, 2SLGBTQIA+ rights, and disability rights, as well as receiving tips for advocacy.

Meanwhile, our executive director Willard Metzger was busy on the west coast. In February and March, CPJ co-hosted social activist Tony Campolo at four events in the Vancouver area. Tony's message sparked much new interest in the work of CPJ.

Back in Ottawa, CPJ staff settled into our new house on MacLaren Street in downtown Ottawa. But less than three weeks after CPJ moved in, the COVID-19 pandemic hit and staff swiftly moved to working from home and cancelled all in-person events.

Yet the pandemic made the importance of exploring overlap between our key issue areas even more clear. Early into the pandemic, CPJ was actively engaged in a collaboration of over 200 environmental, social justice, and health organizations to develop six *Principles of a Just Recovery*. This shared project enabled greater collaboration and consistency across sectors throughout 2020 and beyond.



Tony Campolo speaking at Hope Community Church in Surrey, B.C.

REFUGEE RIGHTS

As we report on the activities of 2020, we honour the contributions of CPJ's refugee rights policy analyst, Stephen Kaduuli, who tragically passed away in April 2021.

Stephen began 2020 by publishing an op-ed in *Policy Options*, arguing that Canada's own contributions to the climate crisis relate directly to our moral obligation to accept climate migrants. This article was widely-read and resulted in Stephen being invited to contribute a letter to *The Walrus* magazine.

Stephen was also vocal about the government of Canada's COVID-19-related travel ban, noting that sending refugees and asylum seekers back to the U.S. runs counter to Canada's international human rights obligations. Stephen was later featured in *Press Progress* highlighting

the danger that Canada's immigration holding centres pose to the health and well-being of refugees detained by the Canadian Border Security Agency.

In June, to mark World Refugee Day, Stephen released *Continuing Welcome*, a report updating CPJ's analysis of Canada's refugee resettlement. The report called for more transparent policy dialogue on long wait times and backlogs, allocation limits, and travel loans, considered to be the core barriers to private sponsorship.

CPJ and our partners at the Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue also launched an online advocacy tool and wrote directly to Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Marco Mendicino to call for policy changes that would help refugees to fully integrate into Canadian society.

In December, Stephen partnered with student-led organizations STAND Canada and STAND USA to produce *Slamming the Door*, a report delving into the implications and effects of the Safe Third Country Agreement. Hanh Ngo, CPJ's pro-bono law student, also prepared a summary of the 2020 STCA ruling.



David Pollack, Stephen Kaduuli, and Jackie Romero-Hernandez celebrate moving in to CPJ's new house.

BOARD IN 2020

Rene Adams (Toronto)
 Marlene Bergsma (Southwestern Ontario)
 Paul Berry (Eastern Canada)
 Adrienne Castellon (Canada-at-large)
 Daniel Cho (Canada-at-large)
 Michael DeMoor (Alberta – North/Northwest Territories)
 Charles Kooger (Saskatchewan/Manitoba/Nunavut)
 Trixie Ling (BC/Yukon)
 Harold Roscher (Canada-at-large)
 Cherilyn Spraakman (Canada-at-large)
 Tiffany Talen (Southern Alberta)
 Nick Van Dyk (Ontario-at-large)
 Martha Wiebe (Northern and Eastern Ontario)

STAFF IN 2020

Executive Director: Willard Metzger
Communications and Development Specialist: Michael Krakowiak
Communications Coordinator: Brad Wassink
Coordinator, Finance and Administration: David Pollock
Refugee Rights Policy Analyst: Stephen Kaduuli
Senior Policy Analyst: Karri Munn-Venn
Socio-economic Policy Analyst: Natalie Appleyard
Public Justice Intern: Keira Kang (until September)
Student Interns: Jackie Romero-Hernandez, Karel Hermans, Erin Kehler, Sophie Robinson, and Hanh Ngo

CLIMATE JUSTICE

In January 2020, Keira Kang, our public justice intern, published an op-ed in *Rabble* highlighting how Canada's just transition should be inclusive of women, Indigenous Peoples, and people of colour. This framework set the stage for our annual *Give it up for the Earth!* campaign. Organizers in over 200 faith communities across Canada requested over 13,000 postcards.

Unfortunately, with the onset of the pandemic, many organizers were understandably unable to follow through with the campaign. Nevertheless, we were encouraged by the unprecedented level of engagement. Organizers later followed up with the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change Jonathan Wilkinson.

In March 2020, just days before COVID-19 was declared a pandemic, CPJ's senior policy analyst Karri Munn-Venn spoke at a press conference on Parliament Hill with labour, social justice, and Indigenous organizations calling for a just transition. As the pandemic intensified, CPJ joined the call for Canada's relief and support to focus on workers

directly, as opposed to oil and gas companies.

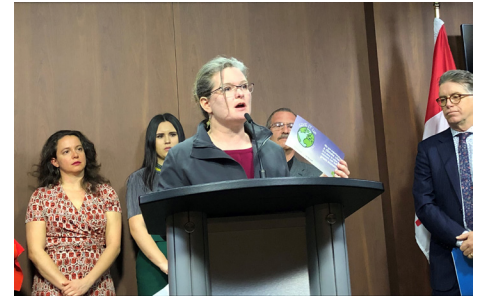
On Earth Day, CPJ led a coalition of 20 Canadian churches and faith-based organizations in formally establishing *For the Love of Creation – A Faith-based Initiative for Climate Justice*. This group now serves as a space for Canadian Christians to engage together in theological reflection, local engagement, and political advocacy on climate justice.

In July, *For the Love of Creation* launched a House of Commons petition calling on Canada to reduce our GHG emissions; invest in an inclusive just transition; honour the rights of Indigenous Peoples; and support climate change adaptation and mitigation measures in the Global South. We also held a five-part online climate forum throughout November, and wrote Minister Wilkinson in support of Bill C-12, "The Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act."

Keira further developed CPJ's Indigenous justice work with *Restoring Indigenous Rights*, a report that looks at how implementing the United Nations Dec-

laration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples can advance climate justice in Canada. In September, CPJ joined *Faith in the Declaration*, a coalition of Canadian faith-based organizations working to support the implementation of the UN Declaration.

In November, Karri published a guide in *Faith Today* on how to make churches more environmentally friendly. The article was awarded second place in the service journalism category at the 2021 Canadian Christian Communicators Association awards.



CPJ's Karri Munn-Venn speaks at a press conference on Parliament Hill in early March 2020, amplifying the call of Canadian churches for a just transition.

POVERTY IN CANADA

At the start of 2020, Statistics Canada released updated methodologies for the Market Basket Measure, Canada's official poverty line. CPJ was quick to respond, noting that the measure was unavailable for people living on reserves, in the territories, or in remote communities.

As the COVID-19 pandemic hit Canada, CPJ's socio-economic policy analyst Natalie Appleyard joined our partners at Canada Without Poverty and Campaign 2000 in exploring the gendered



Natalie Appleyard welcomes attendees to CPJ's Seeking Justice Conference in January at St Paul's Presbyterian Church in Ottawa.

and racialized impacts of the pandemic. Together, we highlighted how Canada needs an intersectional gender-based analysis to fully understand how people's experiences of the pandemic are shaped by combined factors such as Indigeneity, race, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, ability, age, amount and source of income, and immigration status.

In April, our *Dignity for All* campaign followed up on the 2019 *Chew on This!* campaign by writing to Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development. Our letter highlighted some of the encouraging actions that have been taken to support people during the COVID-19 pandemic. But we also identified critical gaps that need to be addressed.

As we do every year, CPJ and *Dignity for All* marked the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on October 17 with our *Chew on This!* campaign, which mobilizes people from across Canada to call for an end to poverty. For the week of October 11 to 17, our *Chew on This!* we-

binar series explored issues, experiences, and recommendations related to poverty in Canada. We ended the week with an e-rally and online action calling on the Government of Canada to do what is legally and morally required to uphold and protect the rights of people experiencing poverty and other intersecting forms of systemic oppression in Canada.

CPJ also released our *Poverty Trends 2020* report in October. This quick-reference guide provides us with a snapshot of the rates and experiences of poverty in Canada from year to year. Our 2020 report adopted an intersectional approach by looking specifically at how experiences of poverty differ depending on overlapping identities. The report also compared existing rights versus lived realities among people experiencing poverty in Canada.

At the end of 2020, Natalie published an op-ed in the *Ottawa Citizen*, highlighting how Canada has the wealth, resources, and wisdom to end poverty in Canada. All we need is the political will. Developing this political will continues to be central to CPJ's anti-poverty work.

FINANCIAL NOTES

2020 is a year none of us would like to repeat. People around the world have faced tragedy and challenge as the first major pandemic in a century has engulfed the globe. And yet when we consider how CPJ fared, we have much to be thankful for.

We started the year with sufficient reserves to allow the board to make the decision to keep the staff team intact and to authorize a potentially large 2020 budget deficit. However, that large potential deficit didn't happen. We were blessed to end the year with a deficit of only \$18,700, even lower than the deficit we incurred in 2019.

The fact that we managed the year so well is due to a few items. We saw that individual donors were able to keep up their donation levels far better than we had feared. In fact, 86% of our donors were able to increase or maintain donation levels while only 14% decreased them. Religious orders also sensitively and faithfully increased their donations beyond our budgeted amount. The federal government provided both interest-free loans and wage subsidies to us during months when our income showed a shortfall. On the expense side, travel was seriously restricted and travel-related expenses were much less than budgeted. Had we been able to rent our old Cooper Street property, which is still under lease, we would have fared even better. To offset some of that, we were able to lock in five-year leases with two tenants at our new property on MacLaren Street.

Next year may prove to be the real challenge as various government support payments should come to an end. So, I challenge each of us who is able, to continue our generous support of the significant work done by CPJ.

I want to thank the volunteers of the Finance Committee and for the staff responsible for our finances—all who have worked hard and done an admirable job.

—Nick Van Dyk, Treasurer



334 MacLaren St - Suite 200
Ottawa, ON K2P 0M6

Unceded Algonquin Territory
613-232-0275 | cpj@cpj.ca | www.cpj.ca
Charitable number: 89438 3512 RR0001
(CJL Foundation)

CJL FOUNDATION OPERATING AS CITIZENS FOR PUBLIC JUSTICE 2020 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS*

Balance Sheet as of December 31	2020	2019
Assets		
Cash	335,175	182,128
Investments	418,068	504,678
Accounts Receivable	200	33,175
Prepaid Expenses	19,477	14,725
Endowment Fund Investment (<i>borrowed with permission, for house purchase</i>)	3,250	500,000
Fixed Assets	1,218,231	986
Despoit for House Purchase		20,038
Total Assets	\$1,994,401	\$1,255,730
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	18,810	10,810
Notes Payable (<i>zero interest includes \$40,000 Covid loan with only \$30,000 to be repaid</i>)	50,000	10,000
Deferred revenue from grant 2020 and for Public Justice House Fund (2019)	14,500	120,650
Current portion of mortgage payable	16,336	
Deferred contributions related to property	136,857	
Mortgage payable	662,328	
Total Liabilities	\$898,831	\$141,460
Net Assets		
Bequest Fund	352,921	288,173
Unrestricted Net Assets	242,649	326,097
The CPJ Public Justice Endowment Fund	500,000	500,000
Total Net Assets	\$1,095,570	\$1,114,270
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$1,994,401	\$1,255,730

Statement of Revenue, Expenditure and Change in Net Assets	Budget 2021	Actual 2020	Budget 2020	Actual 2019
Revenue				
Individuals (<i>direct to CPJ</i>)	302,500	300,783	258,813	282,408
Bequests	35,000	64,748	22,000	44,485
Churches	24,000	21,857	21,218	22,295
Religious Congregations & Orders	99,325	119,325	89,600	251,595
Other Charities (<i>mostly individual donations as well</i>)	160,000	158,180	75,462	134,008
Foundations	45,000	28,525	45,200	17,000
Other Income (<i>interest, sales, events, honoraria, rental income, and COVID-related government support</i>)	163,602	150,612	137,392	102,685
Total Revenue**	\$829,427	\$844,030	\$649,685	\$854,476
Expenses				
Program	507,898	459,110	617,989	621,331
Fundraising and Campaign	112,711	109,559	147,802	148,601
Administration (<i>includes all occupancy costs plus administration</i>)	280,092	274,453	115,753	116,379
Amortization (see note)	0	19,608	0	416
Contingency	0	0	0	0
Total Expenses	\$ 900,701	\$862,730	\$881,554	\$886,729
Surplus/Deficit***	(\$ 71,274)	(\$18,700)	(\$231,859)	(\$32,250)

Unrestricted Net Assets, beginning of year (<i>deficit approved by Board from investments</i>)	326,097	402,835
Transfer to Reserve	64,748	44,485
Unrestricted Net Assets, end of year	242,649	326,097
Public Justice Endowment Fund (Restricted)	500,000	500,000

* The complete audited statements are available upon request.

* Expenditures are done using both actuals plus allocations across categories.

** Note lower 2020 revenues with a loss of large religious order grants and pandemic effects anticipated.

*** Noting the surpluses in previous years, a deficit was approved for 2021 to allow for the last full year of rental payments and to handle any shortfalls due to COVID-19.

Note: Amortization was not calculated into the budget, but it is estimated that it will be managed through the approved deficit of -\$70,199. It is not an actual cash expense.