



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

CPJ'S LEGACY OF JUSTICE SIX DECADES OF INTERGENERATIONAL ADVOCACY

A message from CPJ's Board Chair

Significant moments provide an opportunity for organizations to look back and look forward. CPJ's 60th anniversary in 2023 was no exception!

The 2023 AGM was held in Toronto with an all-star cast of panelists representing the past and future of CPJ. The in-person and online audience celebrated CPJ's past advocacy while also being challenged to consider opportunities to create a more just society for all. In September, a similar event was held in Edmonton, with an equally distinguished panel. Recordings of both events are available online and are worth watching!

The board has a new representative for Southern Alberta. We welcomed Willow Baarda in 2023; she replaced Tiffany Talen. Tiffany provided thoughtful contributions to the board for five years. There was also a change in the board leadership: we are grateful to Cheryl Spraaakman for serving as the board chair for the last three years, and I am humbled to take on this role.

As a board, we want CPJ to continue to call for justice in Canadian public discourse for sixty more years and beyond. Our June board meeting, held in Toronto, set the course for the year ahead. In November, we had a virtual board retreat where we considered the strengths of our past and our future ambitions. We continue this conversation into 2024 with an in-person board meeting scheduled for late May. The board and committees meet on a regular basis, ensuring good governance of CPJ.

As time moves forward, we evolve as an organization while remaining rooted in our values. Today, CPJ has a permanent home

in Ottawa. Justice House is a place of meeting and collaboration not just for our team, but also for like-minded organizations. Recent investments in accessibility help ensure our Ottawa home welcomes all. Today, our staff team and board team better reflect the diversity of Canadian society than in the past. This shows the fruits of our efforts made in keeping with our Equity and Anti-Oppression commitment made in 2022 as well as our longstanding commitment to justice. Today - as always, and as this report shows, we are deeply committed to a Canada that is fairer for all, welcoming to newcomers, and committed to a healthy planet. Some highlights from 2023 show how our past work is connected to new expressions of justice. This includes intervening in legal cases to support climate justice; gathering activists and academics to work on a book on migrant and refugee rights; and collaborating with others to eradicate poverty.



CPJ provides a distinctive voice in Canadian society. We are rooted in a deep history of activism and Christian thought and ready to engage in a diverse and complex society. While our accomplishments are impressive, we do so on a tight budget. In recent years, our revenues have not grown. We have faced challenging financial circumstances including the pressure of inflation. Our diligent staff team is stretched thin with positions left vacant that would help us be much more effective. Your support makes a key difference in helping us to impact policy, bringing a clear call for justice in Canadian political life.

Thank you for your participation in this work of justice.

—Ian Van Haren

A YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2023, CPJ commemorated its 60th anniversary, celebrating six decades of being inspired by faith to act for social and environmental justice in Canadian public policy. This landmark year was an opportunity to both reflect on our storied past and forge plans for a future where justice and dignity are accessible to all.

This year was also notable for our analytical contributions to public policy. CPJ's budget analysis, titled "[A Meaning-](#)

[ful Step Forward, But Is It Enough?](#)" critically examined the 2023 federal budget, assessing its implications for social justice and environmental stewardship. This analysis as well as other media features further established CPJ as a leading voice in Canadian public discourse.

To enhance our capacity to achieve our strategic objectives, CPJ collaborated with graduate Master students from the Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership

program at Carleton University. This partnership resulted in a robust fundraising strategy, focusing on grant applications and donor retention, among other priorities. Implementing this initiative is expected to significantly boost our operational capabilities and ensure sustained impact.

Our 60th anniversary celebrations were a highlight of the year, featuring events in [Toronto](#) and [Edmonton](#) that brought together CPJ founders, long-time supporters, and new advocates to discuss intergenerational advocacy. These gatherings not only honored our rich history but also sparked discussions on how to further our mission in the decades to come. Among the panelists and attendees were individuals who have been instrumental in shaping CPJ's trajectory, offering both inspiration and insight into the persistence of justice work, and the tremendous impact of faith communities on public justice in Canada.

As we close this chapter and look to the next sixty years and beyond, we remain committed to our shared path of public justice in Canada. As witnesses of the present and stewards of the future, we must ensure that every step we take now paves the way for a truly equitable tomorrow.



CPJ's Open House event was held on November 26, 2023. In the photo, from the left: Jessica Hiebert, Dula Deb, Joe Gunn, Emilio Rodriguez, Andrea Rodriguez.

CLIMATE JUSTICE

In a year marked by critical climate policy milestones and proactive community engagement, Citizens for Public Justice (CPJ) continued to strengthen its commitment to climate justice through its impactful Give it up for the Earth! (G4E) campaign. This annual Lenten Environmental initiative saw thousands from faith communities nationwide participating, underscoring the power of united, justice-minded voices advocating for creation care through the For the Love of Creation coalition.

March heralded a significant achievement for CPJ, with the passing of Bill C-226, An Act respecting the development of a national strategy to assess, prevent, and address environmental racism and to advance environmental justice. This legislative success was a di-

rect result of the advocacy efforts from our 2023 G4E campaign and represents a monumental step forward in our fight against environmental injustices.

Amidst these victories, CPJ actively contributed to public discourse on climate action. Our publication, "Canada's Path to Climate Action Can and Must Deliver Economic Justice," featured in CPJ's *the Catalyst*, addressed the intertwined crises of climate change and affordability, signaling a strategic shift towards comprehensive societal transformation in order to bring about a low carbon economy that leaves no one behind. Additionally, the "Preserving Biodiversity: Creation Care from Faith to Action" webinar further exemplified CPJ's dedication to educating and mobilizing community stakeholders across various sectors.

As an active member of the Climate Action Network, our engagement extended to political advocacy since CPJ played a pivotal role during the Clean Electricity Regulations (CER) lobby days on Parliament Hill. In collaboration with the David Suzuki Foundation and other environmental leaders, we championed prompt passage of a robust CER.

Furthermore, CPJ was privileged to enhance our longstanding partnership with the Lutheran and Anglican national churches at their second joint assembly, promoting sustainable practices within church communities and buildings. This year has been both a reflection of CPJ's unwavering advocacy and a beacon of inspiration for future environmental stewardship.

REFUGEE AND MIGRANT RIGHTS

CPJ is producing a book to honour the legacy of Stephen Kaduuli, former Refugee Rights Policy Analyst at CPJ who passed away in April, 2021. The book, titled *A Renewed Canadian Welcome: Eleven Visions from Migrants and Advocates*, serves as an opportunity to articulate CPJ's policy positions on Canadian immigration, prominently feature the voices of migrants and refugees, and strengthen partnerships across the country. The complete manuscript comprising 11 chapters and featuring 16 contributors was submitted to the McGill-Queen's University Press (MQUP) in December, 2023. It covers issues related to private refugee sponsorship, resettlement in emergency situations, and migrant workers' rights. The MQUP intends to publish it upon a successful peer-review process. CPJ continued its advocacy against immigration detentions through

lobbying meetings with policymakers at the federal and provincial levels, advocacy actions, and opinion pieces featured on news outlets. Due to these efforts, and the longstanding work of advocates across the country, all Canadian provinces have now canceled their agreements with the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) that allow for immigration detention to take place in provincial correctional facilities.

We produced knowledge resources and mobilized advocacy actions in response to the expansion of the US-Canada Safe Third Country Agreement, an agreement that CPJ has opposed since its inception. We strengthened our efforts around the #StatusForAll campaign, organizing a demonstration in Ottawa and several meetings with Members of Parliament to speak in favour of a broad regularization program for 1.7 million migrants. We

joined the Board of Directors of the Canadian Health Coalition (CHC) following the publication of a joint report on barriers to access health care for migrants, and participated in lobbying activities to defend, promote, and expand Canada's public health care system.

In September, CPJ welcomed Public Justice Intern Asvini Uthayakumaran to work alongside Emilio Rodriguez on the Refugee and Migrant Rights file. Asvini authored a chapter applying a public justice lens to climate migration, which was included in the book manuscript of *A Renewed Canadian Welcome*. We continued to deepen our relations with existing partners, including International Justice Mission, Human Rights Watch, and the Canadian Council for Refugees, and established new partnerships through the book production process.

POVERTY IN CANADA

2023 was a time of continued collaborations and new beginnings. Along with our partners at Canada Without Poverty and Campaign 2000, we made the decision to close our joint Dignity for All campaign, celebrating the strong contributions we made to the development of Canada's National Poverty Reduction Strategy and National Housing Strategy, while also wanting to create space for new initiatives to grow. By the end of 2023, CPJ brought partners together for a parliamentary breakfast with the All Party Anti-Poverty Caucus, one of the first initiatives of our new *We Go Together Network*. Similar to Dignity for All, this network is bringing people together across the anti-poverty movement and other sectors to build shared understanding, solidarity, and collective impact in the pursuit of rights-based public policies and decision-making processes.

CPJ was invited to share our poverty-related research and policy recommendations with a variety of audiences throughout 2023. CPJ's Socio-Economic Policy Analyst, Natalie Appleyard, was featured in a panel on TVO's *The Agenda* with Steve Paikin, as well as presenting workshops for The Institute for Chris-

tian Studies, the Canadian Council of Churches' Commission on Justice and Peace, and the Kentro Christian Network's Domestic Food Security Group. Natalie also co-facilitated a workshop with CPJ intern, Rena Namago, on our Advocacy Toolkit at the 2023 Cahoots Festival hosted by the Student Christian Movement.

In July 2023, Natalie also attended the UN High-Level Political Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals as a member of the Canadian Delegation. CPJ continues to build on the connections made through this event and our role as co-lead of Campaign 2000's Localizing Canada's Commitments to the SDGs project.



CPJ's Natalie Appleyard is pictured with other members of the Canadian Delegation to the UN High Level Political Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals at the UN Headquarters in New York City, July 2023.

FINANCIAL NOTES

In 2023 CPJ has emerged from the COVID pandemic. Considering the number of NPO's that have significantly changed their operations or even disappeared, CPJ has been fortunate to remain relatively unscathed. Though it had a net positive surplus in operations, it was not enough to cover the depreciation expense from our building. While that results in a net cash inflow for CPJ, it is only positive because it no longer pays rent.

The principle costs of owning our own building include interest on the mortgage, property taxes and maintenance costs. This is offset with rental income, and as a result occupancy costs less the income the building generates are significantly below what CPJ was paying in rent. As was suggested in last year's Treasurer's report, the more quickly we are able to pay down the mortgage, the greater will be the financial benefit of the Maclaren property acquisition.

Donations from Foundations dropped significantly in 2023, but there were significant increases in Donations, Bequests, and gifts from Religious Congregations. Rent has become another significant revenue. CPJ's revenue is up significantly from 2022, but much of this increase is a result of the 60th anniversary appeal. It is impossible to know how much of this increase is permanent.

Expenses are lower this year primarily due to a decrease in salaries and benefits. This is due to a full year without a replacement for our former Director of Finance and Administration. Over all categories, expenses are lower than they were in the previous year. This decrease is not expected to continue for in the long term, unless CPJ significantly modifies its activities.

While CPJ has appeared to turn the corner on COVID, 2024 will be a critical year in determining if these changes will be enduring. Revenue will have to increase in 2024 if the current operational level is to be maintained.

This year as Treasurer, I benefited greatly from the advice and guidance of the Finance Committee. With two former board members and Treasurers on the committee, I am very grateful for the wisdom and guidance the committee provides. I also wish to recognize the efforts of the Executive Director and the staff who have assisted the committee with its work. I am thankful for these blessings.

—Paul Berry, Treasurer

CJL FOUNDATION OPERATING AS CITIZENS FOR PUBLIC JUSTICE 2023 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS*

The Balance Sheet information is not available yet. Please check the Annual Report webpage at cpj.ca/annual-report soon to get the finalized Financial Statements.

Statement of Revenue, Expenditure and Change in Net Assets	Budget 2024	Actual 2023	Budget 2023
Revenue			
Individuals (<i>Direct to CPJ</i>)	375,000	362,285	340,000
Bequests	69,000	79,093	35,000
Churches	18,000	15,723	15,000
Religious Congregations & Orders	50,000	62,350	35,000
Other Charities (<i>Mostly individual donations as well</i>)	133,000	79,700	135,000
Foundations	126,000	28,332	108,500
Other Income (<i>Interest, Sales, Rental Income, Conference Revenues, Events, Honoraria</i>)	111,030	108,088	100,957
Brought into Income accessibility grant improvements	10,000		20,000
Total Revenue	\$892,030	\$745,571	\$779,457
Expenses			
Program	512,865	427,329	456,753
Fundraising and Campaign	96,488	81,183	86,498
Administration	237,410	204,649	218,193
Amortization (<i>see note</i>)	22,500	17,819	17,819
Total Expenses	\$869,263	\$730,980	\$779,263
Initial Surplus/Deficit**	\$267	(\$3,228)	\$194

* The complete audited statements are available upon request.

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

Note: Amortization is not a cash expense; Administration includes all occupancy cost plus administration.

STAFF IN 2023

Executive Director: Willard Metzger

Climate Justice Policy Analyst & Communications Coordinator: Maryo Wahba

Refugee and Migrant Rights Policy Analyst: Emilio Rodriguez

Socio-Economic Policy Analyst: Natalie Appleyard

Communications and Development Specialist: Michael Krakowiak

Communications Assistant: Scott Cooper

Public Justice Interns: Rena Namago (until August), Asvini Uthayakumaran (from September)

Student Interns: Gurleen Bhatti (until April), Dula Deb (from September), Jenna Williams (from September), Jessica Hiebert (from September)

BOARD MEMBERS IN 2023

Ian van Haren (Canada-at-Large)

Cherilyn Spraakman (Ontario-at-Large)

Willow Baarda (Alberta South)

Paul Berry (Canada-at-Large)

Daniel Cho (Ontario-at-Large)

Michael deMoor (Northern Alberta/ Northwest Territories)

Marlene Bergsma (South-Western Ontario)

Kiera Kang (Toronto)

Cathy Rogers (Eastern Canada)

Tenielle Patterson (Northern and Eastern Ontario)

Tiffany Talen (Alberta South)

Monica Tang (British Columbia/Yukon Territory)

Wanda Walter (Saskatchewan/ Manitoba/Nunavut)

Vincent Yagayandi (Canada-at-Large)



Citizens for Public Justice
334 MacLaren St - Suite 200
Ottawa, ON K2P 0M6
Unceded Algonquin Territory

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