

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

CITIZENS FOR
PUBLIC JUSTICE



CPJ Board members present Environment and Climate Change Minister, Catherine McKenna, with *A Public Justice Vision for Canada's Climate Action Plan*, our submission to the climate policy consultations. (June 2016):

From right: Genevieve Gallant, Monique Verhoef, Jim Dekker, John Murphy, Thea de Groot, Wayne Groot, Minister Catherine McKenna, Will Postma, Trixie Ling, Rick Manuel, Adrian Helleman, Martha Wiebe, Joe Gunn, Naomi Kabugi, Mike Bos, and Patricia Fitzmaurice. Absent: Leah Watkiss.

A YEAR OF SPEAKING OUT

FROM CPJ'S BOARD CHAIR & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We invite you to join us in spending a moment thinking about last year: Did our country move towards a more robust defense of human dignity, enhanced environmental sustainability, and inclusive democratic practice? And did our faith communities play a leading public role, reflecting your own values and hopes, in the journey towards public justice?

After reading these pages, we think you'll agree that CPJ certainly encouraged real progress towards ending poverty, promoting ecological justice, and defending the rights of refugees. At CPJ, 2016 was not only a year of speaking out, but, it can also be said, it was a year in

which our message was heard across the land and in the halls of decision-makers.

As you scroll through the pages of this annual report, you'll understand that this work is not accomplished only in Ottawa (although that is where CPJ's offices are located - only a few blocks from Parliament Hill). Nor is our work only undertaken by our small, yet dedicated, staff. CPJ's 13 Board members encourage our activities across the entire country, representing our members, and working with you in local communities. Every time you join a CPJ campaign to promote climate justice, reduce poverty, or motivate your Member of Parliament to enhance the situation of newcomers,

you are joining in this much larger ministry of like-minded accomplices who want to build public justice in Canada!

We trust that your own commitment to public justice grew, as ours did, in 2016. On behalf of the Board and staff, we sincerely thank all of you who have embarked on this faithful, and faith-filled, witness with us!

In 2018, we will mark 55 years of CPJ's journey towards God's shalom – as we work together to link faith, justice and politics to Canada's most pressing societal concerns. Please continue to pray for us, and work with us, on the exciting journey ahead!

—Rev. Jim Dekker and Joe Gunn

OUR VOICES ARE BEING HEARD

When the new government in Ottawa laid out its ambitious policy agenda at the end of 2015, a major part of the process was to engage with Canadians. Throughout 2016, the government met with individuals and organizations, asking how Canadians feel things should take shape. CPJ has been front and centre at many of these events, meeting with cabinet ministers, policy analysts, and officials to bring your voice, the voice of Christians who have a vision for a just and loving society, into the discussions. CPJ does not shy away from asking the hard questions, and we present comprehensive, thoughtful, and compassionate policy alternatives to the issues at hand.

Ottawa wanted our opinion. Well, they got it!

In addition to adding our voice to the government's consultations on electoral reform, CPJ spoke out this year on our three main issue areas: poverty in Canada, climate justice, and refugee rights.

As we move ahead in 2017, it's time to go beyond consultations and address these challenges!

A VOICE FOR POVERTY ELIMINATION

Throughout 2016, CPJ focused on engaging with citizens, faith communities, and government officials on poverty eradication in Canada. Our Dignity for All campaign was highlighted in meetings with MPs, as well as staff at the office of Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development.

7 STATEMENTS

Throughout the year, we participated in the All-Party Anti-Poverty Caucus meetings and have actively met with members of parliamentary committees. In March, CPJ released a statement in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action #48 and #62 as well as our commitment to implementing United Nations' Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In the Fall, we submitted a pre-budget brief to the Finance Committee, a brief to the HUMA Committee to inform its study of poverty reduction strategies, and recommendations to the government's forthcoming national housing strategy.

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MEETINGS ON
THE HILL

64 ENGAGED COMMUNITIES

Our fourth annual ChewOnThis! event was held on October 17, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. This event, organized through our Dignity for All campaign, has grown from 13



Minister Jean-Yves Duclos reads Dignity for All's postcards from our ChewOnThis! campaign.

communities when it began four years ago to 64 communities participating this year, with each province and territory represented. Postcards included in our ChewOnThis! lunch bags were addressed to Jean-Yves Duclos. They asked that the Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy he is developing be comprehensive and rights-based, and that it be informed by those with lived experience of poverty. So far, 672 groups and 11,390 individuals have signed the Dignity for All call to action.



Darlene O'Leary speaks at CPJ's Annual General Meeting.

11 EVENTS

CPJ sponsored events and presented workshops on poverty in Canada throughout the year. On October 20, we held a day-long event in Ottawa called *Ending Poverty in Canada*. Over 100 people attended the conference, with panel discussions and workshops on a range of policy areas and community actions.

4.9 MILLION PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY

In October, CPJ released our annual poverty report, *Break the Barriers*. It analyzes the current poverty rates in Canada and highlights those most impacted such as single-parent families, newcomers and refugees, and Indigenous peoples. There are 4.9 million people in Canada who continue to struggle to get by every day. *Break the Barriers* also provides a breakdown of poverty rates for each province and territory and lists the 20 big cities and small communities in Canada with the highest poverty rates.

A VOICE FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

Thanks to persistence and a new political openness, CPJ met with Environment and Climate Change Minister, Catherine McKenna, three times this year.

3,000 PETITIONS

In February, we delivered over 3,000 climate petitions calling on the government to develop an ambitious Canadian greenhouse gas emissions reduction target. We also called for a binding international climate agreement.

CPJ advocated for investments in a just transition – where jobs and livelihoods are protected as economies shift to sustainable processes. CPJ also met with senior civil servants and MPs, including Chair of the Environment Committee Deb Schulte, Conservative climate change critic Ed Fast, and Green Party leader Elizabeth May.

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MEETINGS ON
THE HILL

272 CONSULTATION SUBMISSIONS

Through the summer, 272 Canadian Christians made active use of CPJ's online climate consultation tool to share their stories and submit climate action recommendations directly to the government. CPJ members also participated in many climate consultation town halls across the country.

In December, we responded to Prime Minister Trudeau's announcement of Canada's Climate Action Plan and called for an urgent expansion and deepening of federal action to address the climate crisis.

20 EVENTS

In Ottawa, Toronto, Waterloo, Edmonton, Vancouver, and Surrey, we hosted, presented, and participated in many climate justice events in collaboration with churches, Indigenous allies, environmental groups, and energy workers.



Karri Munn-Venn presents at Climate Action After Paris in Ottawa.

6 INFOGRAPHICS

In 2016, CPJ published our analysis in major publications including the Huffington Post, the Anglican Journal, and ChristianWeek. We also produced a series of six infographics that explain the science behind the warming of the Earth due to GHG emissions, illustrate the symptoms of climate change in Canada, and help us understand what a tonne of greenhouse gas emissions really looks like.

A VOICE FOR REFUGEE RIGHTS

As 2016 began, CPJ welcomed news that the government would fully reinstate refugee health care, a change we had been calling for since 2012. All refugees – no matter who they are in Canada, where they are from, or who sponsors them – now have access to health care.

While the federal government also aims to increase overall immigration numbers, they are not addressing the need to increase the number of refugees coming to Canada. CPJ sees many Christian communities actively settling refugee families – now we need to change refugee policy to make the entire system respond better to this critical human need.

When Canada only took in 1,100 Syrian refugees in 2014, CPJ published a research paper on the challenges of private sponsorship and the barriers that existed. In 2015 and 2016, Canada welcomed 25,000 displaced persons from Syria, but there are still significant gaps in settlement policy, screening processes, and follow-up procedures.



CPJ's Public Justice Interns, Bolu Coker and Asha Kerr-Wilson.

In September 2016, we recognized the need to expand our work on refugee policy and were pleased to welcome Bolu Coker to our staff. Bolu is one of two Public Justice Interns who will spend the year with us. Throughout 2016, CPJ has called for the federal government to do more to secure not just the physical safety of refugees, but also their social and economic security upon resettlement.

CPJ is also preparing a new research report on what immigration and refugee policies still need to be addressed given the increased numbers of newcomers coming to Canada. How we welcome and treat newcomers to our country says a lot about us as a nation, and how we as Christians live the Gospel message of tolerance and acceptance.

STAFF DURING 2016

Executive Director: Joe Gunn

Communications and Development Specialist: Michael Krakowiak

Communications Coordinator: Brad Wassink

Coordinator, Finance and Administration: David Pollock

Development Officer: Jim McIntyre

Senior Policy Analyst: Karri Munn-Venn

Socio-Economic Policy Analyst: Darlene O'Leary

Public Justice Interns: Miriam Mahaffy (until Aug.)
Asha Kerr-Wilson and Bolu Coker (began Sept.)

Research Associate: Katherine Scott

Interns: Social Work – Chris Hynes (Jan. - Apr.)
Communications – Rachel DeBruyn (Jan. - Apr.)
Aboriginal Reconciliation Researcher – Amie Nault (Summer)

FINANCIAL NOTES

CJL FOUNDATION OPERATING AS CITIZENS FOR PUBLIC JUSTICE 2016 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS*

This past year was a remarkable one for CPJ. In addition to the many generous donors that support us, this year marked the receipt of our first ever endowment gift from which, in perpetuity, CPJ will have interest returns. A \$500,000 gift will contribute toward our growing program needs. We give thanks to God and are deeply grateful to the Sisters of Saint Ann for this generous gift in support of public justice.

CPJ had budgeted for a deficit in 2016 of \$56,000 as this was the first year without a special grant of \$90,000 towards the Dignity for All campaign. We are delighted to report that this grant was restored in 2017 and will continue over the next three years. We did end the year with a deficit, but only one of \$36,576. Nevertheless, our unrestricted assets are \$267,244, our Bequest Fund (Reserves) has grown to \$137,961 and, with the Public Justice Endowment Fund our total Net Assets now exceed \$900,000.

The challenge remains in growing our donor base as individual donations were down in 2016 from the prior year. We are exploring opportunities to find new members and increase donations from churches and other agencies.

We are grateful for the generosity of all our members and partners who support CPJ, for God's continued blessings, and for the board and staff team who attend to the financial well-being of CPJ.

—Mike Bos, Treasurer

Balance Sheet as of December 31	2016	2015
Assets		
Cash	170,474	232,455
Investments	360,790	312,947
Accounts Receivable	6,269	22,171
Prepaid Expenses	7,046	7,046
Endowment Fund Investment (new in 2016 restricted gift to use interest only)	500,000	-
Fixed Assets	3,239	5,209
Total Assets	\$ 1,047,818	\$ 579,828
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	11,863	11,797
Notes Payable	52,500	73,000
Deferred for Public Justice House Fund	78,250	53,250
Total Liabilities	\$ 142,613	\$ 138,047
Net Assets		
Bequest Fund	137,961	110,776
Unrestricted Net Assets	267,244	331,005
The CPJ Public Justice Endowment Fund	500,000	-
Total Net Assets	\$ 905,205	\$ 441,781
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 1,047,818	\$ 579,828

Statement of Revenue, Expenditure and Change in Net Assets	Budget 2017	Actual 2016	Budget 2016	Actual 2015
Revenue				
Individuals	496,752	398,781	503,731	456,805
Bequests	0	27,185	0	41,084
Churches	40,000	30,200	40,000	40,335
Religious Congregations & Orders	185,000	114,825	100,000	209,767
Other Charities (are mostly individual donations as well)	33,425	76,274	30,250	74,896
Foundations (\$25,000 grant for House shown only on balance sheet)	10,000	6,335	20,000	6,540
Other Income (Sales, events, Honoraria)	48,850	42,067	14,235	46,038
Total Income	\$ 814,027	\$ 695,667	\$ 708,216	\$ 875,465
Expenditure				
Program	567,387	521,037	524,985	502,938
Fundraising and Campaign	135,953	123,163	128,549	128,147
Administration	104,946	95,073	99,230	93,403
Amortization	0	1,970	1,500	2,142
Contingency	2,000	0	10,000	
Total Expenses	\$ 808,286	\$ 732,243	\$ 764,264	\$ 726,630
Surplus/Deficit**	\$ 5,741	-\$ 36,576	-\$ 56,048	\$ 148,835
Unrestricted Net Assets, beginning of year		331,005		223,254
Transfer to Bequest Fund (as a result of transfer of funds since beginning of policy)		-27,185		-41,084
Unrestricted Net Assets, end of year		267,224		331,005

* The complete audited statements are available upon request.

**The deficit allowed for a transition from the loss of a \$90,000 grant and the addition of a second intern; the grant was restored for 2017.

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