

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017

CITIZENS FOR  
PUBLIC JUSTICE 



CPJ's Board of Directors (May 2017): From left: Genevieve Gallant, Jim Dekker, Patricia Fitzmaurice, Wayne Groot, Thea de Groot, Mike Bos, Trixie Ling, Naomi Kabugi, Martha Wiebe, and Rick Manuel. Absent: Adrian Helleman, Monique Verhoef, and Leah Watkiss.

## A YEAR OF PARTNERSHIPS FROM CPJ'S BOARD CHAIR & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**I**n this Annual Report, you'll read about CPJ's work in Ottawa and across Canada. And you'll see that every single aspect of our work is done through the partnership and support of thousands of justice-minded people of faith.

The development of partnerships is, for CPJ, more than tactical. It is an essential element of what we understand the ministry of Citizens for Public Justice to be all about.

Whether our work focuses on poverty, ecological justice, or refugee rights, we refuse to do this work alone. Our Christian witness is bigger than any one denomination – there are a half dozen represented among our Board and staff, and more among our membership base. We often work with non-Christians in common causes. Our theory of change leads us to believe that unless those directly affected are involved, our activities, no matter how well-intended, can lack authenticity. Our strategies to advance public justice are therefore always open to creative collaboration and mutual respect as we fashion impactful action for necessary change.

Partnership also extends into the creation of financial stability for CPJ's work. Our members and partners have recognized CPJ's ca-

capacity to deliver cutting-edge research, education, and action programs. Through their donations and financial gifts, last year's deficit was overcome and replaced by a healthy surplus in 2017.

CPJ was blessed by the faithful service and inspired guidance of some incredible Board members who will retire in May 2018: Genevieve Gallant of Ottawa served as Personnel Liaison to the staff, Thea de Groot of Sarnia served as Board Secretary and chaired the Development Committee, Monique Verhoef of Calgary chaired the Program Advisory Committee, and Adrian Helleman of Toronto served on our Program, Finance, and Nominations Committees.

In over 50 years of public justice ministry, CPJ's reach has never been quite as broad and deep as we and our members have fashioned it today. And with your help, our partnerships will be even stronger and deeper tomorrow.

Dear partners, please continue to collaborate with us, challenge us, and pray for us!

—Rev. Jim Dekker and Joe Gunn



In 2017, Canada marked 150 years since its Confederation. But this measurement of time ignores the deep and rich history of the Indigenous Peoples who inhabited this land long before 1867. CPJ marked the year by exploring the legacy of colonialism on Canadian life. And we knew that our organization, made up predominantly of settlers, could not presume to do this work alone.

**In 2017, CPJ worked with partner organizations to bring new and vital voices to our work.** In response to the Calls to Action in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, CPJ has articulated our own plans to implement the United Nations' Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Aboriginal partners have helped us complete two internal reports that orient our work to bring in Indigenous perspectives. In the Catalyst, CPJ heard from Jennifer King and Cindy Blackstock of the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada. Together, they questioned how First Nations children were being left out of Canada's big year. In May, at our Annual General Meeting in Winnipeg, we continued this conversation with Shaun Loney and Rev. Adrian Jacobs, Keeper of the Circle at the Sandy Sauteaux Centre, as we learned together about reconciliation in today's economy.

**In 2017, CPJ worked with churches, Christian universities, and religious congregations to expand our impact across the country.** Throughout the year, CPJ staff have contributed to collaborative Christian initiatives through the Canadian Church Press, the Canadian Council of Churches' Commission on Justice and Peace, and the Canadian Poverty Institute at Ambrose University in Calgary. In academic circles, Saint Paul University awarded the Eugène de Mazenod Medal to CPJ's executive director, Joe Gunn. The medal honours individuals who have made a significant contribution to the development of human capital in their community.

**In 2017, CPJ partnered with you, our members and supporters, to speak together with one voice for public justice in Canada.**

## ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE

### CPJ LED PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN FAITH COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS

In 2017, CPJ joined the Green Economy Network, a collective of trade unions and environmental groups working on strategies for a just transition. We also continue to partner with Climate Action Network Canada (CAN-Rac), a coalition of over 100 Canadian climate organizations, Faith and the Common Good, and the Green Churches Forum.

Throughout the year, CPJ presented at over a dozen events, hosted by our partners Citizens Climate Lobby, Canadian Council of Churches, the Student Christian Movement's Cahoots Festival, Ecology Ottawa, A Rocha Canada, St. Paul University, and the Anglican Diocese of Toronto.



*The Give it up for the Earth! postcards were presented to Minister McKenna (third from the left) by the chaplain of Immaculata High School Leah Daly, CPJ board member Genevieve Gallant, CPJ staff Karri Munn-Venn and Asha Kerr-Wilson, and Immaculata student Chelsea Donoghue.*

### GIVE IT UP FOR THE EARTH!

CPJ began 2017 by launching a new climate campaign, *Give it up for the Earth!* Christians across Canada marked Lent by taking specific actions to help the environment such as biking to work, reducing their meat consumption, and divesting their finances from the fossil fuel sector. More importantly, the campaign included a message to Catherine McKenna, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, calling for more far-reaching climate action.

Throughout the early part of the 2017, we distributed over 12,000 postcards. In every province as well as one territory, 91 local organizers mobilized their networks around the campaign. They represented nine different Christian denominations as well as key partners at the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund and the United Church of Canada.

### UN CLIMATE CONFERENCE

From November 13 to 17, our senior policy analyst Karri Munn-Venn attended the UN Climate Conference (COP23) in Bonn, Germany as an observer under the accreditation of the United Church of Canada. She reported back on the progress and barriers at the conference and how the decisions would impact Canada's own ability to implement the Paris Climate Agreement.

Karri's analysis of the UN conference was featured in Policy Options. Throughout COP23, CPJ worked with Young Evangelicals for Climate Action, Climate Caretakers, and the Christian Reformed Church's Climate Witness Project to provide daily updates. Our series of videos from Bonn included interviews with Minister McKenna and Green Party Leader Elizabeth May.



*Canadian Ambassador to Germany Stéphane Dion, CAN-Rac's Catherine Abreu, CPJ's senior policy analyst Karri Munn-Venn, and CAN-Rac's Nattan Nguyen at COP23 in Bonn, Germany.*

# POVERTY IN CANADA

## CPJ PARTNERED IN CO-LEADING THE LARGEST CANADIAN ANTI-POVERTY COALITION

CPJ continued our long partnership with Canada Without Poverty (CWP), an organization whose Board of Directors is made up entirely of people with lived experience of poverty. Their voices are critical to the integrity of the Dignity for All (DfA) campaign, which CPJ and CWP lead together. Since 2009, the campaign has been calling for a national anti-poverty plan. We've also participated in anti-poverty events organized by Campaign 2000 and the United Church of Canada's Bread Not Stones campaign. In 2017, the government of Canada took major steps towards making this a reality. We expect to see this plan released in 2018.

### POVERTY CONSULTATIONS

In February, when the government announced they were opening public consultations on the forthcoming Poverty Reduction Strategy, DfA and CPJ were quick to respond. We created an online form for people to easily send their suggestions directly to government officials and provided our supporters with background on our key policy recommendations. A total of 860 people used our form to contribute to these consultations, over 75 per cent of the email submissions the government received!

Our partners actively joined us in this work. Darlene O'Leary presented during a webinar for members of EDGE, a ministry development network of the United Church of Canada. We also met with three dozen faith leaders and Indigenous partners in Toronto and Ottawa. And CPJ took part in events with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto, the Ottawa Poverty Reduction Network, and the Public Service Alliance of Canada. CPJ submitted our own brief to the consultation process. And in May, we were invited to a roundtable discussion with Minister of Families, Children and Social Development Jean-Yves Duclos to speak to him directly about our policy recommendations.

### POVERTY TRENDS 2017

In October, CPJ released *Poverty Trends 2017*, our annual report on poverty in Canada. It emphasized the high poverty rates among key

demographics including single working-age adults and newcomers to Canada. The report received coverage in the Huffington Post and The Tyee. In November, Natalie Appleyard, CPJ's new socio-economic policy analyst, presented the report at a symposium hosted by the Religious Social Action Coalition of Newfoundland and Labrador in St. John's.

### CHEW ON THIS!

2017 marked the fifth year of Dignity for All's *Chew on This!* campaign. With supporters in every province and territory organizing over 80 events, the campaign grew bigger than ever. Volunteers handed out a food item, information on poverty in Canada, and a postcard addressed to Minister Duclos calling for a comprehensive anti-poverty plan that addresses Dignity for All's key policy recommendations. In total, more than 5,000 cards were sent to the minister.

In Ottawa, we partnered with the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association and the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness for a press conference and parliamentary reception. CPJ also welcomed Bishop John Chapman of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa to speak to media about the need for housing and poverty strategies in Canada.



CPJ and CWP brought the *Chew on This!* campaign to Parliament Hill where we were joined by Liberal MP Julie Dabrusin, NDP MP Brigitte Sansoucy, and Green Party Leader Elizabeth May.

# REFUGEE RIGHTS

## CPJ PARTNERED WITH OVER 100 REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP ORGANIZATIONS ACROSS CANADA

In April, CPJ released *A Half Welcome*, a major report on private refugee sponsorship in Canada. With the help of the 110-member Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAH) council, we surveyed sponsors from across Canada and reported the challenges they face in

bringing refugees here. The results were clear: sponsors are consistently running into major barriers: long wait times, limits on the number of refugees they can sponsor, and the high costs of travel loans for refugee families.



Bolu Coker, one of CPJ's public justice interns, discussed *A Half Welcome* with Conservative MP Michelle Rempel and Mike Hogeterp, director of the Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue.

Public Justice Intern Bolu Coker presented the report to MPs in Ottawa and many of our partners across Canada. In Winnipeg and Victoria, he was hosted by refugee advocates and academics. *A Half Welcome* received wide-spread, positive coverage in the Christian Courier, Metro News, and The Hill Times. In the Catholic Register, Ahmed Hussen Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, responded to the findings in our report, promising that the problem of long wait times will be fixed by 2019.

Three-quarters of SAHs expressed concern that Canada is one of the only Western countries that demands refugees repay travel loans. CPJ wrote twice to Minister Hussen, asking him to waive this burden. Towards the end of the year, CPJ teamed up with the Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue, the Mennonite Central Committee, and World Renew to encourage focused and continued advocacy on these major issues.



# FINANCIAL NOTES

## CJL FOUNDATION OPERATING AS CITIZENS FOR PUBLIC JUSTICE 2017 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS\*

CPJ was blessed greatly in 2017 by God's grace inspiring our supporters to donate generously. Revenues climbed to \$889,849, which was \$75,822 above our budgeted revenues. This was greatly helped by bequests to CPJ in the amount of \$44,065 and an unbudgeted gift from a religious congregation. Thus, CPJ ended the year in a surplus situation of \$96,243 which will be placed into reserve to eventually help CPJ either purchase our own house or permit the continuation of existing programs.

Although this situation is very positive, we should note that we are coming to the end of the Building Public Justice Together campaign, and several larger multi-year donations will expire in 2018 and 2019. CPJ does not rely on any government support; rather, we rely on you, our individual members, as well as churches and religious organizations, to generously support the work for public justice.

Again this year, I would like to thank the Board, Committee Members, and the staff for their faithful work on behalf of public justice.

—Mike Bos, Treasurer

### STAFF DURING 2017

#### Executive Director

Joe Gunn

#### Communications and Development Specialist

Michael Krakowiak

#### Communications Coordinator

Brad Wassink

#### Coordinator, Finance and Administration

David Pollock

#### Development Officer

Jim McIntyre

#### Research Associate

Katherine Scott

#### Senior Policy Analyst

Karri Munn-Venn

#### Socio-Economic Policy Analyst

Darlene O'Leary (until Oct.)

Natalie Appleyard (began Oct.)

#### Public Justice Interns

Asha Kerr-Wilson and Bolu Coker (until Aug.)

Deborah Mebude and Sarah DelVillano (began Sept.)

#### Social Work Intern

Josephine Adeosun (Sept. - Dec.)

Balance Sheet as of December 31	2017	2016
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash	185,681	170,474
Investments	433,879	360,790
Accounts Receivable	19,999	6,269
Prepaid Expenses	6,313	7,046
Endowment Fund Investment (new in 2016 restricted gift to use interest only)	500,000	500,000
Fixed Assets	2,089	3,239
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,147,964</b>	<b>\$ 1,047,818</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	13,266	11,863
Notes Payable	30,000	52,500
Deferred for Public Justice House Fund	103,250	78,250
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 146,516</b>	<b>\$ 142,613</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Bequest Fund	182,026	137,961
Unrestricted Net Assets	319,422	267,244
The CPJ Public Justice Endowment Fund	500,000	500,000
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,001,448</b>	<b>\$ 905,205</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,147,964</b>	<b>\$ 1,047,818</b>

Statement of Revenue, Expenditure and Change in Net Assets	Budget 2018	Actual 2017	Budget 2017	Actual 2016
<b>Revenue</b>				
Individuals	491,516	392,500	496,752	398,781
Bequests	0	44,065	0	27,185
Churches	32,000	27,539	40,000	30,200
Religious Congregations & Orders	230,000	249,252	185,000	114,825
Other Charities (are mostly individual donations as well)	51,000	92,136	33,425	76,274
Foundations (\$25,000 grant for House shown only on balance sheet)	10,000	20,550	10,000	6,335
Other Income (Sales, events, Honoraria)	51,955	63,807	48,850	42,067
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 866,471</b>	<b>\$ 889,849</b>	<b>\$ 814,027</b>	<b>\$ 695,667</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Program	629,219	579,650	567,387	512,037
Fundraising and Campaign	117,246	108,010	135,953	123,163
Administration	115,006	104,796	104,946	95,073
Amortization	0	1,150	0	1,970
Contingency	0	0	2,000	0
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 861,471</b>	<b>\$ 793,606</b>	<b>\$ 808,286</b>	<b>\$ 732,243</b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>	<b>\$ 96,243</b>	<b>\$ 5,741</b>	<b>-\$ 36,576</b>
Unrestricted Net Assets, beginning of year		267,244		331,005
Transfer to Bequest Fund (as a result of transfer of funds since beginning of policy)		-44,065		-27,185
Unrestricted Net Assets, end of year		319,422		267,224

\* The complete audited statements are available upon request.