



CITIZENS *for* PUBLIC JUSTICE

ANNUAL REPORT 2006

The CJL Foundation, operating as Citizens for Public Justice

In 2006, public justice was truly front and centre.

Citizens for Public Justice helped shape the policy discussions on how governments and citizens ought to tackle the persistence of poverty in Canada.

We called for greater inclusion for refugees, with our very successful *Welcome the Stranger: Becoming Neighbours* initiative.

To make public justice more visible, we worked on strengthening our presence. CPJ began the year by becoming a single, fully charitable organization. We restated our mission and vision statements to focus our efforts.

We launched a \$1.2 million major gift campaign to help us greatly increase our reach and impact. *Public Justice: Front + Centre* will propel us forward on several fronts:

- Preparing for a 2007 move of our offices to Ottawa so CPJ can be more fully present where federal decisions are made.
- Organizing to recruit additional staff to keep public justice front and centre with government, the media and our neighbours.
- Developing an internship program: beginning in September 2007, new university graduates can spend a year learning from senior CPJ staff how to connect faith and justice and Canadian policy.
- Hiring additional communications technology staff to help us communicate more effectively.
- Upgrading our information technology to support our research and communications.

2006 was a busy, productive, and immensely satisfying year. Our public justice approach had clear impact, and we accomplished much policy wise. Further, a broad array of people – in government, among our coalition partners, from church communities and among justice-oriented citizens – responded with an appreciation for the value and contribution of our work.

We move forward knowing that our approach makes a difference, and supported by a faithful, politically engaged movement of Christians who embrace public justice. Thank you for your part in making **public justice front and centre.**

– Harry J. Kits, Executive Director

***PUBLIC JUSTICE** is a response to Christ's call to preach good news to the poor, proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour (Luke 4:18-19).*

***IT IS THE POLITICAL DIMENSION** of loving one's neighbour, caring for creation and achieving the common good. It is particularly the responsibility of government and citizens. In all we do at CPJ, from policy development to organizational work, we aim to live out the call of public justice.*



FEDERAL ELECTION

CPJ kicked off the year with *Embracing a Politics of Hopeful Citizenship*, our federal election bulletin, widely distributed to our supporters, faith communities and the general public, and placed on our website. The bulletin held up a mirror to our national politics. We argued that it's easy to distort the image in the mirror and pat ourselves on the back for Canada being a great country. But for the image to match our reality, public policies must live up to the values of justice and compassion.

RESPONSE TO THE BUDGET

CPJ responded to the new federal government's first budget in the spring. We stressed that public justice requires government to exercise particular care in ensuring that those with the fewest resources have the basics of life. In a wealthy country like Canada, **people should be given a real opportunity to flourish and fully participate in the life of their community.**



POVERTY REDUCTION

Throughout the year, CPJ argued that if Canada is going to achieve real and lasting success in reducing poverty – among children and among all Cana-



dians – it needs a **poverty-reduction strategy.** Greg de-Groot-Maggetti, our socio-economic policy analyst, brought this message and our submission, “Time for a National Poverty Reduction Strategy,” to the House of Commons finance committee during pre-budget hearings in September. Our call for a national strategy, offered in the context of public justice and Christian faith, was taken up by other groups working towards making poverty history in Canada.

FALLING FAMILY FORTUNES

Under the banner “Addressing the falling fortunes of young children and their families,” CPJ joined **Campaign 2000** and other groups across the country to support strategies to improve the fortunes of young families with children. Poverty among young families today is substantially higher than it was 20 years ago. **A large part of the problem** is that many Canadian jobs, especially those held by younger workers and new immigrants, pay low wages. Over a two-year period,

through the Falling Fortunes Project, groups of parents and people from faith communities, business and labour will explore ways to make work pay for young families – and help lift them out of poverty.

WELCOMING STRANGERS

CPJ's *Welcome the Stranger: Becoming Neighbours* initiative proved the truth of acting on our values in hope. CPJ asked Canadians to declare their backing of newcomers to Canada and to ask for political action.

Throughout the year CPJ supporters were busy garnering signatures and approaching elected representatives with confidence and knowledge, and



had the satisfaction of seeing **the petition presented in Parliament.** Eighteen presentations were made by MPs in the House of Commons, and more than 100 MPs across Canada were contacted by their constituents regarding the petition.

In April and May, in Calgary and Winnipeg, CPJ hosted workshops on the theme of *Welcome the Stranger:*



THE CPJ BOARD (spring 2007):

BACK ROW (left to right): **Bill Lodewyk**, *treasurer*, Alberta-South, **Jim Joosse**, at-large, Canada, **Mike Bulthuis**, at-large, Canada, **Annie McKittrick**, British Columbia/Yukon.
FRONT ROW: **Emily Hutten**, Eastern Canada, **Lisa Chisholm-Smith**, *secretary*, North & Eastern Ontario, **Ruth van Mossel Adema**, Saskatchewan/Manitoba/Nunavut, **Kathy Vandergrift**, *vice-chair*, at-large, Canada, **Janet Wesselius**, *chair*, Alberta-North/NWT.
MISSING: **Colin Grimmond**, at-large, Toronto, **Mike Hogeterp**, at-large, Toronto, **Sue Wilson**, CSJ, Southwestern Ontario.



Becoming Neighbours. Local refugees, refugee advocates and CPJ members participated in sessions on refugee and newcomer issues, facilitated by CPJ's Harry Kits, Greg deGroot-Maggetti and refugee policy analyst Chris Pullenayegem.



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During the summer, CPJ further researched the **root causes of forced migration** – why people become refugees – as part of the *Welcome the Stranger: Becoming Neighbours* project. What we learned will inform our work on refugee resettlement and Canada's private sponsorship program.

RURAL POVERTY

In November CPJ was invited to present to the Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee, which is studying rural poverty in Canada. Harry and Greg spoke on **the different ways poverty is measured**, and the government's public justice role in alleviating rural poverty and creating a Canadian poverty-reduction strategy.



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FORUM ON THE HILL

In late November, CPJ co-sponsored a two-day forum on Parliament Hill aimed at **building a faith-based movement** for a Canada without poverty. This joint initiative – with Kairos, the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, the Canadian Council of Churches, Faith and the Common Good and the Cam-

paign Against Child Poverty – brought together people, including those living in poverty, from six provinces to share experiences, draw strength and develop action plans to end poverty in Canada.

CPJ was represented by six board members as well as executive director Harry Kits and Greg deGroot-Maggetti. The day after the forum, Greg and Harry joined several other participants in **briefing MPs from all parties** on the forum and bringing the message that Canada needs a comprehensive strategy to eliminate poverty. CPJ's communications technology specialist, Michael Krakowiak, created two websites – www.canadawithoutpoverty.ca and www.canadasanspauvrete.ca – where conference materials are posted.

MEETING THE MINISTER

Immigration Minister Monte Solberg's address at our annual meeting in May was disrupted by an outside group, which prevented him from giving his remarks. However, later in the year CPJ was able to **share our public justice approach to refugee issues** with the minister and his staff.

On several occasions in the fall, CPJ met with the minister's policy staff and then with the minister himself to discuss the issues raised by CPJ in the *Welcome the Stranger: Becoming Neighbours* petition. The latter meeting included discussion of policies to **speed up the landing of refugees in limbo** and CPJ's opinion on the processing of group sponsorship. This was a follow-up to a position paper, "Group Processing of Refugees," that CPJ produced in September.

Minister Solberg described refugees as one of the most vulnerable groups in the world. He affirmed the work of CPJ and reiterated the need for an ongoing dialogue that would help shape just and fair policies.

ON THE ROAD

Through our coalition and partner work, CPJ had many opportunities to present our public justice approach.



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Some of the highlights:

- Greg deGroot-Maggetti addressed the conference of the Canadian Association of Food Banks (CAFB) in Ottawa on National Hunger Awareness Day. His comments were used as the foreword to *HungerCount 2006*, the CAFB's annual report on hunger and food bank use in Canada.
- Chris Pullenayegem spoke as one of three international panel members at a workshop on "Promoting Positive Attitudes Towards Refugees." The workshop was part of an international refugee rights conference held at York University in Toronto organized by the Canadian Council for Refugees.
- CPJ sponsored and Greg and Harry Kits participated in a fall conference called "The Church and Affordable Housing" in Vancouver. Harry gave a keynote talk on how to do advocacy. Greg and former CPJ board member Donna Stewart led a workshop on charity, justice and affordable housing. Donna and current board mem-

ber Annie McKittrick were on the conference steering committee.

- Harry visited the Augustana Campus of the University of Alberta, where he discussed pluralism and faith and public life with the directors of the Chester Ronning Centre for the Study of Religion and Public Life.
- Harry presented “Seeking Justice through Political Advocacy: The Basics of Political Engagement” at a community gathering at Grandview Calvary Baptist Church in Vancouver.

HONOURARY DOCTORATE FOR GERALD VANDEZANDE

In October, retired long-time CPJ national affairs director Gerald Vandezande received an **honourary doctorate**



for his many years of service to the cause of public justice. The first such honour ever granted by the Institute for Christian Studies in

Toronto, it was a thrill for both Gerald and CPJ.

1. Socio-economic policy analyst Greg de-Groot-Maggetti (right), with Conservative MP Rick Dykstra at the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance’s hearing on the budget in September.
2. Policy analyst Chris Pullenayegem listens to Joe Gunn call for meaningful appeal for refugees at CPJ’s annual meeting.
3. Asni Mekonnen signs the *Welcome the Stranger: Becoming Neighbours* petition at the launch of this major initiative.
4. Immigration Minister Monte Solberg at CPJ’s annual meeting in Ottawa in May.
5. Young people demonstrate their desire for social justice.



e-newsletter of

CITIZENS for PUBLIC JUSTICE

Ola!

COMMUNICATING PUBLIC JUSTICE

Our monthly electronic newsletter *Ola!* continues to be widely read. And our website averaged about 8,200 visits per month in 2006, peaking with 12,000 in December. Both serve as valuable tools to share our public justice approach and work.

Our quarterly publication, *the Catalyst*, was well received in 2006. It not only focused on CPJ’s current work, but commented on issues such as:

- the Alberta oil sands development;
- detention of the mentally ill, the addicted and the poor – a new subclass of outcasts who have nowhere to turn when released from jail; and
- Aboriginal rights and the real work of reconciliation that requires commitment to hard steps, including restitution and settling of land claims.

The Catalyst won **five first-place Canadian Church Press awards** for:

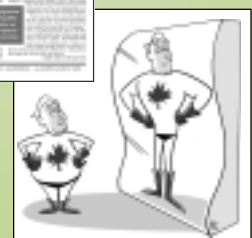
- general excellence, newsletter – editors Janet Somerville and Louise Slobodian, designer Eric Mills;
- features, newsletter – “Mad farmers and BSE ... 20 months later,” by CPJ member John Kolk;
- opinion piece, newsletter – “Broadbent’s lament ... and a politics of hopeful citizenship,” by board member Mike Hogeterp;
- editorial, newsletter – “Who’s safe in the ‘safe third’ agreement?” by staffer Chris Pullenayegem; and,
- biblical interpretation, open category – “Abraham: from alien to citizen” by CPJ member Janet Somerville.

A number of newspapers and websites **reprinted CPJ articles**. There’s an appetite for clear analysis of current issues from a faith and justice stance, and CPJ serves up valuable offerings – fulfilling our mandate to engage people as well as policy.

CPJ also shared our public justice approach **via radio**. Appearances included Chris Pullenayegem as a CBC Radio Winnipeg panelist on refugee issues; Harry Kits on Winnipeg’s CJOB’s *Godtalk*, sharing our public justice approach; and financial development coordinator Bruce Voogd and board member Kathy Vandergrift on CBC Radio Ottawa, discussing CPJ’s style of achieving public justice.



Hopeful citizenship election bulletin.



CPJ would like to thank our many volunteers across the country who help out in big and small ways. Your assistance, support and enthusiasm are very much appreciated.

STAFF DURING 2006

Greg DeGroot-Maggetti – socio-economic policy analyst

Michael DeMoor – receptionist/administrative assistant

Patricia Hayward – receptionist/administrative assistant

Marian Heinen – financial development assistant

Harry Kits – executive director

Michael Krakowiak – communications technology specialist

Jenn Neufeld – receptionist/administrative assistant

Michael Newson – summer intern

Chris Pullenayegem – refugee issues policy analyst

Louise Slobodian – communications coordinator

Claire Veenstra – business/office coordinator

Bruce Voogd – financial development/membership coordinator

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to promote public justice in Canada by shaping key public policy debates through research and analysis, publishing and public dialogue. CPJ encourages citizens, leaders in society and governments to support policies and practices which reflect God's call for love, justice and stewardship.

PUBLIC JUSTICE

Front + Centre

Public Justice: Front + Centre: The Campaign for CPJ will give us the means to expand our impact, by performing our policy work in Ottawa, more boldly, prominently and clearly, and with a timely and distinctive public justice presence. The goal of this special campaign is \$1.2 million.

We hope to raise this money over and above what our supporters give as their annual gift to CPJ. Two-thirds of the funds have already been pledged.

WITH YOUR HELP WE WILL:

Move to Ottawa in 2007, renting office space close to Parliament Hill as of July 1. The Toronto office will close shortly after.	\$180,000
Hire a public justice policy analyst to start in Ottawa in September 2007. Campaign funds will cover all expenses for this senior position for three years.	\$280,000
Launch a public justice internship program, starting in September 2007. Each year we'll engage a new graduate for a year at a time to work with our seasoned public justice staff.	\$150,000
Hire communications technology support. Effective communications today requires dedicated technical support.	\$190,000
Upgrade our technology. Our computers and software require significant upgrading to handle our research, communication and database needs.	\$60,000
Improve our financial sustainability by creating a permanent reserve fund of 30% of the budget to manage our cash flow.	\$260,000
Cover all campaign expenses.	\$80,000

TOTAL \$1.2 million

More information about our *Public Justice: Front + Centre* campaign can be found at www.cpj.ca/campaign/front+centre.html or by contacting us by phone, fax or email.

The Campaign for CPJ

Financial Notes

This year CPJ launched a major gift campaign, *Public Justice: Front + Centre*, the first such campaign in our history. After significant planning in 2005, we produced campaign materials in 2006 and visited many supporters. The campaign continues in 2007.

In both campaign donations and regular annual donations, individual members and donors continue to be the backbone of CPJ's support. We are also grateful to all the churches, religious congregations, foundations and other organizations that support our work. We are humbled by the generosity you have all shown. Your financial gifts and encouragement to always put public justice front and centre sustain us.

Thank you!



Citizens for Public Justice

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Website: www.cpj.ca

Charitable Number:
89438 3512 RR0001

CJL FOUNDATION operating as

CITIZENS FOR PUBLIC JUSTICE

2006 Financial Statements*

BALANCE SHEET as at December 31	2006	2005
Assets		
Cash	\$ 186,501	\$ 31,665
Accounts Receivable	72,320	12,058
Prepaid Expenses	3,253	2,713
Works of Art	100	100
Due from CPJ Corp	–	30,192
Total Assets	\$ 262,174	\$ 76,728
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	20,938	1,798
Notes Payable	248,253	89,125
Deferred Revenue	2,500	1,000
Due to CPJ Corp	700	–
Total Liabilities	\$ 272,391	\$ 91,923
Fund Balance	-\$ 10,217	-\$ 15,195
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$ 262,174	\$ 76,728

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND NET ASSETS

	Actual 2006	Budget 2006	Actual 2005**	Budget 2007
Receipts				
Memberships	\$ 49,589	\$ 51,000	\$ 47,950	\$ 48,000
Donations	316,207	304,000	335,883	370,400
Churches/Religious Congregations	77,609	70,000	108,920	70,000
Grants	39,735	90,500	131,654	35,000
Other	21,279	14,200	8,377	21,200
Campaign	279,517	329,100	101,500	427,500
Total	\$ 783,936	\$ 858,800	\$ 734,284	\$ 972,100
Disbursements				
Salary/Benefits	470,547	484,600	436,160	536,600
Occupancy	70,620	86,100	80,319	175,800
Administration	48,772	102,600	43,192	87,800
Fundraising & Campaigns	113,417	103,500	48,595	67,900
Program	75,602	82,000	116,427	93,800
Total	\$ 778,958	\$ 858,800	\$ 724,693	\$ 961,900
Excess receipts/disbursements	\$ 4,978		\$ 9,591	\$ 10,200
Net assets (deficiency), beginning	-\$ 15,195			-\$ 10,217
Net assets (deficiency), end	-\$ 10,217			\$ –

* Audited statements with notes are available upon request.

** CPJ previously operated as two organizations. 2005 shows the combined information. Some comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the current presentation.