



CITIZENS *for* PUBLIC JUSTICE

# ANNUAL REPORT 2007

The CJL Foundation, operating as Citizens for Public Justice

## ***From the Board Chair***

CPJ draws on deep roots, works in the present, and has its eye on the future. That characterizes the work of the board in 2007. The board took steps to renew our core statement of principles, strengthen the organization and move it to Ottawa, and begin a strategic plan for the next phase of CPJ's work.

## **PUBLIC JUSTICE FOR CITIZENS, GOVERNMENTS, AND CPJ**

Public justice is a dynamic concept, timeless and timely. This year the board led a process to renew CPJ's core statement about what public justice means as we work it out in the life of Canada. It is a working document; we value dialogue to enrich it and keep it fresh. Check it out on the CPJ website and let one of the board members know what you think.

## **STRENGTHENING THE ORGANIZATION**

As board members, we thank everyone who contributed to our first major gift campaign.

For the board, the success of the campaign was confirmation of the desire of CPJ's supporters to grow our public witness. As we see new staff at work in an efficient office close to Parliament Hill, we can say you made a good investment. Thank you.

Moving means changes; the board has been actively engaged to ensure that the move to Ottawa and hiring

new staff enhances CPJ's mission – the reason behind all the activity. We thank all the staff members for their cooperation in a time of transition. We are also updating how we work as a board and staff, checking the plumbing of the organization, if you will. The goal is to make the best possible use of all the resources that the organization has been gifted to use, and be accountable to you as its members.

## **THANK YOU TO HARRY KITS**

On behalf of all members, thank you to Harry Kits for twenty years of service to CPJ. Harry's dedication to the cause of CPJ and his leadership of the staff team will live into CPJ's future. We also want to thank his wife Marianne and family for supporting Harry in this demanding position. We pray for God's blessings for Harry, Marianne, and family – they will always be part of our CPJ family.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

Every board needs to plan ahead. What should CPJ look like five years from now?

That question is driving a strategic planning process for board and staff. We want to hear your ideas and thoughts as well, because CPJ is all of us, working together. You will hear more about this in 2008, but we also invite you to call one of the board members to discuss your dreams for CPJ.

- Janet Wesselius

## ***From the Executive Director***

2007 was a year of transition and marks the beginning of a new chapter in CPJ's life.

The physical move of our office from Toronto to Ottawa, after nearly 45 years, was sparked by a desire to put public justice front and centre in Canada's capital. The move allowed us to enhance our work with Members of Parliament, other decision-makers and with partners committed to addressing key policy debates in Canada. The response has been encouraging, affirming, and truly blessed!

However, it also has meant changes in staffing. We have said good bye to staff who did not make the move to Ottawa. We have also welcomed new staff who are establishing the next generation of CPJ.

I, too, will be stepping down as Executive Director, having accomplished, with the help of many colleagues and our support community, the goal of bringing CPJ to this new chapter in its life.

This 2007 Annual Report highlights some of the transitions that have taken place and the early opportunities we have experienced in our new location "on the Hill."

Please join me in giving thanks for the blessings we have received in this transition year, and please join me in continuing to support the next generation who will lead us in CPJ's mission in the years to come.

- Harry J. Kits

## ANTI-RACISM RESEARCH

CPJ began the year by following up on the 2006 Welcome the Stranger: Becoming Neighbours campaign. Recognized for our active work in this area, CPJ was invited to partner with the Research Resources division for Refugees at Carleton University on a short term anti-racism research project. Funded by the Department of Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) and part of CIC's *Welcoming Communities* initiative, the project researched and documented anti-racism initiatives in Canada. CPJ specifically focused on **documenting faith-based initiatives around anti-racism**.

## RESPONSE TO THE BUDGET

Released in the spring, the federal government's Budget 2007 included measures like tax cuts for middle class Canadian families, but it lacked an integrated strategy to ensure all Canadians have livable incomes and can fully participate in community life. CPJ's budget response pointed out that public justice creates a shared responsibility to look out for not just our own needs, but also the needs of our neighbours. We stressed that **federal budgets should inspire our deepest commitments as citizens** to live out the values of compassion and solidarity. From this perspective, Budget 2007 left much to be desired.

## SPONSORING REFUGEES

Throughout the year, CPJ shone a spotlight on refugee issues. CPJ met with senior policy staff from CIC's Refugees branch on several occasions to discuss matters of mutual interest. These senior staffers reiterated the importance of voices like CPJ being heard by government, and spoke of their appreciation for CPJ's in-depth and well-researched refugee work. Our move to Ottawa was welcomed as



CHRIS PULLENAYEGEM

a positive step in building continued strategic relationships with the department.

CPJ also continued its work on the private sponsorship of refugees program (PSRP). Refugee policy analyst Chris Pullenayegem addressed the challenges of the PSRP at a Canadian Council for Refugees workshop. And because of CPJ's work facilitating dialogue between government and sponsor groups, we were one of three non-sponsor groups invited to attend consultations between sponsor groups and CIC. These consultations were encouraging and successful.

## THE CATALYST

In May, *the Catalyst* stood out once again with two **first place Canadian Church Press awards**. It received a first place award for general excellence in a newsletter for editor Louise Slobodian and designer Eric Mills. Henry Smidstra, friend of CPJ, won first place in the newsletter feature category for his article "The Revolving Door of the Justice System." A third place award was given to CPJ staffer Greg DeGroot-Maggetti for "Parable of the Vineyard

Workers."

The high regard of *the Catalyst* did not stop there. Executive director Harry Kits generated much interest in his article "God(s) in the House: From faith to hopeful citizenship," which highlighted how **faith affects politics**. Harry called for open and respectful dialogue in the public sphere to shape policies that affect the well-being of all. This article was picked up by other publications, and was also noted on several on-line news sources.

## PRE-BUDGET CONSULTATIONS

In its pre-budget consultations for Budget 2008, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance asked what criteria should guide changes to Canada's tax system. CPJ's brief underscored that **taxes are a common good** by framing taxes in public justice principles. The brief reiterated that taxes fund public services that create a shared and sustainable prosperity, and continued the call for a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy.

## MP MEETINGS

After the move to Ottawa in July, meeting with MPs became much easier. In late November CPJ met with Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day at his invitation to discuss issues of housing and homelessness. Policy analyst Chandra Pasma and public justice intern Trixie Ling shared a **public jus-**



CHANDRA PASMA, STOCKWELL DAY AND  
TRIXIE LING

erspective on housing issues with Day, and showed how a poverty reduction strategy could integrate solutions to housing and poverty. CPJ looks forward to other opportunities for continuing dialogue with MPs on the Hill.

### HOPE IN TROUBLED TIMES

The spring release of *Hope in Troubled Times: A new vision for confronting global crises* was met with much critical acclaim. The book, authored by CPJ friends Bob Goudzwaard, Mark Vander Vennen and David Van Heemst, presents a biblically-founded perception of current global concerns, outlining hopeful approaches and solutions. In October 2007, CPJ co-sponsored an Institute for Christian Studies conference that featured the authors building on the themes of this book. The text of this conference was then posted on our website [www.cpj.ca](http://www.cpj.ca).

### COUCHICHIING 2007

The Couchiching Institute of Public Affairs's 76<sup>th</sup> annual conference looked at and asked difficult **questions around issues of diversity, social cohesion and citizenship**. CPJ staffer Chris Pullenayegem took part in the conference, examining with other participants questions of Canadian multiculturalism and integration, as well as the role of governments, businesses, individuals and society within these complex issues.

### WEEKLY WEB UPDATES

With short, weekly features, CPJ staff **responded promptly to emerging issues**, generating interest from other websites and receiving thoughtful responses from members and the public. Begun in November, these regular web updates covered a range of issues including housing and homelessness, the environment, and the Safe Third Country Agreement.

## Moving to Ottawa

Our June 2007 Annual General Meeting was bittersweet: we officially said farewell to Toronto and anticipated our impending move to Ottawa. Having searched for the perfect Ottawa office throughout spring 2007, our move in July to **our new location just streets from Parliament Hill** was filled with excitement. It involved much sorting through archives, organizing office furniture and coordinating moving trucks, but we managed to get it all up to Ottawa without a hitch.

In November, we held our **official open house**, welcoming members, politicians and other friends of CPJ to our new office. We shared delicious food and were led in a welcome litany by Grey Sister Fay Edmonds of Pembroke. MPs from a range of political parties dropped by to express their excitement for CPJ's move, and our local MP Paul Dewar shared warm words of welcome.



*On the left:* CPJ executive director Harry Kits talks with Doug Cryer of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada and MP Harold Albrecht. | *On the right:* Chris Pullenayegem discusses CPJ's work with MP Paul Dewar.

Part of this transition meant **saying good-bye to old friends**. In July, CPJ said good-bye to Marianne Heinen, Pat Hayward and Michael DeMoor – all of whom served CPJ faithfully and in many ways over the years. CPJ also bade farewell to Greg DeGroot-Maggetti and Chris Pullenayegem, who, after commuting to Ottawa throughout the fall, moved on to new jobs closer to their homes.

This move also brought in **a new and eager CPJ team**. First, we welcomed Darlene McLeod as the financial development assistant. In August, Chandra Pasma, our public justice policy analyst, and Marie McArdle, administrative assistant, came on board. September brought Karen Diepeveen, communications coordinator, and Trixie Ling, CPJ's first ever public justice intern. It has been exciting to have so many fresh new faces around the office – if you are ever in the neighbourhood, drop by for a cup of fair trade coffee and meet the new team!

# Poverty Reduction Strategy work

Millions of Canadians are living in poverty and income insecurity is on the rise. Public justice calls us to action – loving our neighbour includes making sure all Canadians can meet their basic needs and actively participate in society. As a result, 2007 saw CPJ strengthen its call for a national poverty reduction strategy.

- Staffer Greg DeGroot-Maggetti wrote “No One in Need: Strengthening our social foundations,” a chapter for the book *Lives Still in the Balance*. In this chapter, he wrote about the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and explored how a poverty reduction strategy could rebuild Canada’s social foundations. Marking the publication of this book, Greg spoke about poverty reduction at a religious leaders’ conference.
- Back in 2006, CPJ co-sponsored a poverty reduction forum with five other like-minded organizations. In May, CPJ followed up on this forum, again with these partners, by issuing a joint letter to all federal political party leaders about committing to poverty reduction in Canada.
- Policy analyst Chandra Pasma took part in a KAIROS anti-poverty forum in late November, brainstorming with other participants (including low-income citizens,

church members, advocates and politicians) about how to make poverty a bigger election issue and how to involve low-income citizens in anti-poverty activities.

- CPJ policy analysts, as well as board member Mike Bulthuis, took an active role in coordinating and sponsoring the Ottawa Feeding Change dinner, which brought

poverty reduction strategy at a meeting with Aisling Gogan, director of that province’s poverty reduction strategy. Also, at the invitation of the National Council of Welfare, Chandra participated in a roundtable discussion of the four cornerstones of a poverty reduction strategy.

All of these initiatives and participa-



together people who have experienced poverty, social justice advocates and politicians for an evening of dialogue about poverty.

- Chandra had the chance to explore Newfoundland and Labrador’s

tion in events highlighted the need for CPJ to continue to encourage and advocate for a national poverty reduction strategy. This important work laid the foundation for CPJ’s poverty reduction strategy public education and citizen engagement campaign for 2008.

## Mission Statement

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

## STAFF DURING 2007

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.



**Greg DeGroot-Maggetti** –  
socio-economic policy analyst

**Michael DeMoor** –  
receptionist/administrative assistant

**Karen Diepeveen** –  
communications coordinator

**Sandra Elgersma** –  
interim contract Catalyst editor

**Patricia Hayward** –  
receptionist/administrative assistant

**Marianne Heinen** –  
financial development assistant

**Harry Kits** –  
executive director

**Michael Krakowiak** –  
communications technology specialist

**Marie McArdle** –  
receptionist/administrative assistant

**Darlene McLeod** –  
financial development assistant

**Trixie Ling** –  
public justice intern

**Chandra Pasma** –  
public justice policy analyst

**Chris Pullenayegem** –  
refugee issues policy analyst

**Claire Veenstra** –  
business/office coordinator

**Bruce Voogd** –  
financial development/  
membership coordinator

# PUBLIC JUSTICE

## Front + Centre

In February 2007, CPJ publicly launched its first major gifts campaign. This campaign sought to raise special funds to expand CPJ's thoughtful Christian impact in Ottawa and to make our reasoned public justice contribution to policy dialogue more bold, prominent and timely.

And this campaign was successful – with help from **over 400 donors**, CPJ had received \$1 million in pledges and one-time gifts by early 2008. As part of the successes, CPJ completed its move to Ottawa (see 'Moving to Ottawa' for more details). Funds were used to hire a public justice policy analyst and to kick off our public justice internship program. These gifts also allowed us to upgrade our technology and to hire Michael Krakowiak as our communications technology specialist to maintain this new system. **Thanks to all who contributed!**

## CPJ BOARD 2007

**Mike Bulhuis**,  
at-large, Canada

**Lisa Chisholm-Smith**,  
*secretary*, North & Eastern Ontario

**Mike Hogeterp**,  
at-large, Toronto

**Emily Hutten**,  
Eastern Canada

**Jim Joose**,  
at-large, Canada

**Bill Lodewyk**,  
*treasurer*, Alberta-South

**Annie McKittrick**,  
British Columbia/Yukon

**Maria Pâez Victor**,  
Toronto area

**Ruth van Mossel Adema**,  
Saskatchewan/Manitoba/Nunavut

**Kathy Vandergrift**,  
*vice-chair*, at-large, Canada

**Janet Wesselius**,  
*chair*, Alberta-North/NWT

**Sue Wilson**,  
CSJ, Southwestern Ontario

**Fred Wind**,  
at-large, Toronto



## Financial Notes

2007 brought a close to CPJ's successful major gift campaign, Public Justice: Front + Centre. The Front + Centre Campaign provided the needed funds to relocate CPJ's head office in to the City of Ottawa, establishing a new generation and increasing our public justice presence in Canada. Thanks to the generous financial support of CPJ members like you, the Front + Centre campaign raised nearly one million dollars!

Through the efforts of the Front + Centre campaign and encouragement from CPJ's membership, CPJ is in a greater position of financial sustainability than ever before. We are grateful to the generous individual CPJ members and donors who continue to be the backbone of CPJ's support. We are also thankful to all the churches, religious congregations, foundations and other organizations that give to CPJ, support our work and lend their strength to our voice. We are humbled by the generosity you have all shown. Your prayers, encouragement, financial gifts and commitment to always put public justice front and centre sustain us.

Thank you!

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CJL FOUNDATION operating as

## CITIZENS FOR PUBLIC JUSTICE

2007 Financial Statements\*

<b>BALANCE SHEET</b> as of December 31	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash	\$27,057	\$186,501
Accounts Receivable	134,528	72,320
Prepaid Expenses	11,387	3,253
Due from CPJ Corp	2,300	0
Fixed Assets	55,300	100
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$230,572</b>	<b>\$262,174</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	13,365	20,983
Notes payable	142,253	248,253
Deferred Revenue	400	2,500
Due to CPJ Corp	0	700
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$156,108</b>	<b>\$272,436</b>
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$74,554</b>	<b>-\$10,217</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$230,572</b>	<b>\$262,174</b>

### STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND NET ASSETS

	<b>Actual 2007</b>	<b>Budget 2007</b>	<b>Actual 2006</b>	<b>Budget 2008</b>
<b>Receipts</b>				
Memberships	\$41,180	\$48,000	\$49,589	\$48,000
Donations	241,990	370,400	316,207	437,689
Campaign	381,673	427,500	279,517	180,000
Bequests	23,965	-	-	-
Churches/Religious Congregations	65,333	70,000	77,609	65,000
Grants	4,950	35,000	39,735	35,000
Other	50,459	21,279	21,279	31,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$809,550</b>	<b>\$972,179</b>	<b>\$783,936</b>	<b>\$797,389</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>				
Salary/Benefits	428,347	536,600	470,547	492,494
Occupancy	91,839	175,800	70,620	77,605
Administration	69,254	87,800	48,772	78,039
Fundraising	50,837	67,900	113,417	58,600
Program	57,834	93,800	75,602	90,650
Ammortization	26,668			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$724,779</b>	<b>\$972,100</b>	<b>\$778,958</b>	<b>\$797,389</b>
<b>Excess Receipts/disbursements</b>	<b>\$84,771</b>	<b>\$10,200</b>	<b>\$4,978</b>	
<b>Net assets (deficiency), beginning</b>	<b>-\$10,217</b>	<b>-\$10,217</b>	<b>-\$15,195</b>	<b>\$74,554</b>
<b>Net assets (deficiency), end</b>	<b>\$74,554</b>			

\* Audited statements with notes available upon request