

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



A YEAR OF COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE

A MESSAGE FROM CPJ'S BOARD CHAIR

2021, another year under pandemic restrictions, has featured highs and lows for the Board of Directors and staff of Citizens for Public Justice.

A high note was the Seeking Justice Together Conference in May. The virtual conference featured presentations and dialogue across Canada and as far north as Old Crow, Yukon. Over 300 people attended. The Board acknowledges the talent, imagination, and resilience of the CPJ staff led by Willard Metzger as the Executive Director.

The death on April 15 of Stephen Kaduuli, treasured Refugee Rights Policy Analyst, due to COVID19, was deeply sad for staff and Board alike. Our blessing was the online memorial service led by Willard. Willard's presence and words were a condolence to Stephen's family in Toronto, England and Uganda.

A skilled staff member, Brad Wassink resigned the position of Communications Coordinator in May. Deb Mebude, former intern and staff member, ably stepped in until August. We have been blessed to have Maryo Wahba join the staff in the position in November.

In 2021 CPJ returned to offering an intern position. Ruva Gwekwerere is working with Natalie Appleyard on poverty policy.

We thank the following retiring Board members: Adrienne Castellon, of Lower Mainland, BC, was on the Equity and Anti-Oppression Committee and Nominating Committee. Martha

Wiebe of Ottawa, was on the Board for 6 years, serving ably on the executive as secretary, and was on the Personnel and Nominating committees. Nick Van Dyk, of Ottawa, was also on the executive as treasurer, and brought governance and institutional knowledge of CPJ to the Finance Committee.

We welcomed four new members to the Board in June. Keira Kang, Toronto, is pursuing a Master's of Information Degree at the University of Toronto. Tienielle Patterson, Thunder Bay, is a Medical Transportation Benefits analyst with the Non-insured Health Benefits Program under Indigenous Services Canada. Monica Tang, Vancouver, works at the Canadian Coast Guard in Vancouver as a negotiator and senior advisor. Ian Van Haren, Montreal, is pursuing PhD studies in Sociology, with a focus on refugee and immigration policy.

I am grateful to the members of the Board of Directors who faithfully attend the many Board and committee meetings. This year the Board engaged in honest and amicable conversations. We have embraced the commitment to equity and anti-oppression in CPJ's work to end poverty and promote climate justice and refugee rights, enhancing our mission to reflect God's call for love, justice, and the flourishing of creation.

Thank you to the generous supporters, donors, and members of Citizens for Public Justice. We abound with blessings!

—Cherilyn Spraakman

A YEAR IN REVIEW

Throughout the pandemic, CPJ has been committed to ensuring that our research and advocacy are aimed at compelling the government to protect the most marginalized people in Canada, especially Indigenous peoples, people of colour, and those with precarious immigration statuses. In April 2021, after the Federal Government released its annual budget, CPJ issued our 2021 budget analysis [A Pandemic Response Without a Just Recovery](#). In May, our *Seeking Justice Together* virtual conference managed to create an accessible platform for justice-minded Christians across Canada to have crucial conversations about how to seek justice through intersectional, interpersonal, and interconnected approaches.

After the 2021 Federal election was called, CPJ issued [Creating a Just Canada](#), an election bulletin to help Canadians choose their government with equity in mind. We also contributed to hosting a *Faithful Election Conversations* webinar where we discussed some of Canada's most pressing and relevant issues, such as Reconciliation, climate justice, poverty eradication, and xenophobia. Throughout 2021 and beyond, CPJ's staff and board members have participated in facilitated discussions to develop CPJ's Equity and Anti-Oppression strategy. A statement outlining our renewed commitments towards Equity and Anti-Oppression will be released at our 2022 Justice Conference (May 26th).

REFUGEE RIGHTS

Early 2021 saw CPJ's deepened engagement in the work of the *Canadian Council for Refugees* (CCR), and in particular the *Overseas Protection and Resettlement* (OPR) Steering Committee. CPJ took the lead in preparing materials for collective advocacy for the safe resumption of refugee resettlement.

Dialogue and collaboration continued among faith-based partners engaged in refugee rights work—*World Renew*, *MCC Canada*, *the Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue*, and *the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada*—with an eye to developing a spring advocacy campaign. We were also engaged in deliberations with *Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada* (IRCC), and part of ecumenical conversations regarding the *International Decade for People of African Descent* (IDPAD).

CPJ was devastated by the sudden passing of Refugee Rights Policy Analyst Ste-



CPJ's policy analysts, Stephen Kaduuli, Karri Munn-Venn, and Natalie Appleyard meet with Sen. Rosa Galvez and staff to discuss a just recovery.

phen Kaduuli in April. We endeavoured to honour his legacy by continuing to advocate for a more fulsome welcome for refugees to Canada.

In July, Stephen's final article, focused on the [70th anniversary of the UN Refugee Convention](#) was published in *Broadview* magazine.

Admittedly, there was a gap in our work over several months as we regrouped and prepared to welcome a new team member. Through the fall, we engaged in a rigorous hiring process and were pleased to have named Emilio Rodriguez as CPJ's new refugee rights policy analyst by year-end.

BOARD MEMBERS IN 2021

Paul Berry (Atlantic Canada)
Marlene Bergsma (South-Western Ontario)
Adrienne Castellon (Canada-at-Large)
Daniel Cho (Canada-at-Large)
Michael deMoor (Northern Alberta/NWT)
Keira Kang (Toronto)
Charles Kooger (SK/MB/NU)
Tenielle Patterson (Canada-at-Large)
Cherilyn Spraakman (Canada-at-Large)
Tiffany Talen (Alberta South)
Monica Tang (British Columbia/YT)
Ian Van Haren (Canada-at-Large)
Martha Wiebe (Northern and Eastern Ontario)
Nick Van Dyk (Ontario-at-Large)

STAFF IN 2021

Executive Director: Willard Metzger

Communications and Development Specialist: Michael Krakowiak

Communications Coordinator: Brad Wassink (until June), Deborah Mebude (interim June-August), Maryo Wahba (began November)

Coordinator, Finance and Administration: David Pollock

Refugee Rights Policy Analyst: Stephen Kaduuli (until April)

Senior Policy Analyst: Karri Munn-Venn

Socio-economic Policy Analyst: Natalie Appleyard

CLIMATE JUSTICE

CPJ has always understood the power of collaboration. Three key networks that helped us advance our climate justice work in 2021 were the faith-based climate justice initiative, *For the Love of Creation* (where we served on the coordinating committee and led the advocacy group); *Faith in the Declaration: the Ecumenical Circle on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*; and *Climate Action Network-Canada* (CAN-Rac). By sharing analysis, developing common policy positions, and holding joint meetings with Cabinet Ministers and other MPs, we were able to strengthen the call for more ambitious action.

Early in the year, we met with Justice Minister David Lametti and Environment and Climate Change Minister Jonathan Wilkinson, as well as Liberal MP Nathaniel Erskine-Smith, Green MP Elizabeth May, and NDP MP Laurel Collins. These Ministers and others were the target of our faith-in-action campaign calling for increased climate ambition and investment in a just transition, the honouring of Indigenous rights, and increased climate finance to the Global South.

Our faith-inspired work for climate justice and these calls for action were amplified through our presentations at

national, international, and local public events throughout the year, including those hosted by CAN-Rac, *the Parliament of World Religions*, *GreenFaith*, *For the Love of Creation*, *Voices for Peace* and *the Henri Nouwen Centre*, *The United Church of Canada*, *First Grantham United Church* (St. Catharine's, ON) and *First Presbyterian Church* (Brockville, ON).

2021 also saw results! In April, Canada announced a new climate target, committing to greenhouse gas emissions reductions of 40-45% below 2005 levels by 2030. In June, the federal government said that it would double its climate financing to \$5.3 billion over five years.

Also in June, two critical pieces of legislation were passed: the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Bill C-15) and the Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act (Bill C-12).

Analysis of this progress featured prominently at the *For the Love of Creation Fall Symposium* (which CPJ helped to organize) and also in our leadership of the joint *United Church of Canada—For the Love of Creation* virtual

delegation to COP26 (the UN climate negotiations) in November.

We capped off 2021 with a submission to the *Net-Zero Advisory Body* (NZAB) regarding Canada's forthcoming emissions reduction plan and commitment to cap emissions from the oil and gas sector. The priorities presented here laid the foundation for our work in 2022.



January 19 meeting of Liberal MP Nathaniel Erskine-Smith with members of the For the Love of Creation Advocacy Group (Karri Munn-Venn, CPJ; Ryan Weston, Anglican Church of Canada; MP staffer Cameron Durkin; Naomi Johnson, Canadian Foodgrains Bank; Joe Gunn, Centre Oblat.

POVERTY IN CANADA

At the start of 2021, the National Advisory Council on Poverty released [Building Understanding: The First Report of the National Advisory Council on Poverty](#). CPJ was invited to share feedback on the report and to participate in a series of roundtable discussions, as well as helping connect the Council with other partners and existing research.

As the pandemic persisted, CPJ continued to raise awareness about the disproportionate impacts and risks of contact among those who are already living in poverty or precarity. CPJ's socio-economic policy analyst, Natalie Appleyard, participated in meetings with our partners at Campaign 2000 with NDP leader Jagmeet Singh and MP

Leah Gazan, as well as with members of staff for then-Conservative leader, Erin O'Toole, to discuss the urgency of providing repayment amnesty to people with low incomes who received the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB). Natalie also had the opportunity to appear on Global News in February and The West Block in April.

The 2021 federal budget included welcome investments in housing and childcare, with agreements still being worked out with some provinces and territories. It expanded access to Employment Insurance and extended emergency pandemic benefits. However, even these critical investments did not meet the need for holistic, systemic

reform to our social safety net.

The need to address underlying systemic inequities to effectively address poverty in Canada was at the centre of CPJ's 2021 Poverty Trends report and our Dignity for All *Chew on This!* campaign, both released in October.

In addition to these political engagements, CPJ also continued to contribute to partner organizations' strategic planning, research, and community engagements, notably with Campaign 2000, Canada Without Poverty, the Canadian Poverty Institute, the Basic Income Canada Network, and the Canadian Council of Churches' Commission on Justice and Peace.

FINANCIAL NOTES

Charles Dickens had it right. It was the best of years and the worst of years in many ways.

We lost a dear colleague, Stephen Kaduuli, in 2021. The pandemic continued. Travel and face-to-face workshops were very limited or non-existent as a result. The Board did not meet in person.

All of these had the effect of reducing CPJ expenditures over the year. The Board, seeing the continuing pandemic playing out, approved once again a deficit budget in the amount of \$71,214.

But at the same time our donors were wonderfully generous. In fact, a full 34% of donors contributed more in 2021 than they had the previous year. The Government continued to make supportive grants during months when our income was down and several small rent subsidies as well. Our Justice Conference was very well attended and generated a profit to aid revenues. A memorial fund to support refugee work gained interest and support and our investments with CSS earned interest at an unusual rate of 6.81%—after expenses!

Overall, even with the rehiring of a new Communications Coordinator, CPJ was able to end 2021 with a surplus of \$10,377 instead of the deficit that had been approved if required.

If CPJ is to get back to its full strength with a staff member focused on development and fundraising, CPJ still has a gap to fill for 2022 and in the years ahead. This is particularly true as we reopen and undertake face to face travel and workshops. This will allow more outreach as well and with, God's grace and our generous donors, we will hope to see CPJ on a firm financial footing during 2022 and the years ahead.

I thank the members of the Finance Committee and the staff responsible for finances and as David moves into retirement as of April 2022. May we all wish him well and thank him for his many years of service.

—Nick Van Dyk, Treasurer



334 MacLaren St - Suite 200
Ottawa, ON K2P 0M6
Unceded Algonquin Territory
613-232-0275 | cpj@cpj.ca | www.cpj.ca
Charitable number: 89438 3512 RR0001 (CJL Foundation)

CJL FOUNDATION OPERATING AS CITIZENS FOR PUBLIC JUSTICE 2021 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS*

Balance Sheet as of December 31	2021	2020
Assets		
Cash	251,452	335,175
Investments	639,052	418,068
Accounts Receivable	14,567	200
Prepaid Expenses	20,413	19,477
Endowment Fund Investment (<i>borrowed with permission, for house purchase</i>)	23,250	3,250
Fixed Assets (<i>house plus other fixed assets</i>)	1,180,687	1,218,231
Despoit for House Purchase		
Total Assets	\$2,129,421	\$1,994,401
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	11,438	18,810
Notes Payable (<i>zero interest includes \$40,000 Covid loan with only \$30,000 to be repaid</i>)	70,000	50,000
Deferred revenue from grant 2020 and for Public Justice House Fund (2019)	148,325	14,500
Current portion of mortgage payable	17,060	16,336
Deferred contributions related to property	131,383	136,857
Mortgage payable	645,268	662,328
Total Liabilities	\$1,023,474	\$898,831
Net Assets		
Bequest Fund	413,706	352,921
Unrestricted Net Assets	192,241	242,649
The CPJ Public Justice Endowment Fund		500,000
Total Net Assets	\$1,105,947	\$1,095,570
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$2,123,421	\$1,994,401

Statement of Revenue, Expenditure and Change in Net Assets	Budget 2022	Actual 2021	Budget 2021	Actual 2020
Revenue				
Individuals (<i>Direct to CPJ</i>)	302,500	285,822	305,500	300,783
Bequests	35,000	60,785	35,000	64,748
Churches	24,000	20,054	24,000	21,857
Religious Congregations & Orders	99,325	69,925	99,325	119,325
Other Charities (<i>Mostly individual donations as well</i>)	160,000	140,228	160,000	158,180
Foundations	65,000	38,074	45,000	28,525
Other Income (<i>Interest, Sales, Rental Income, Conference Revenues, Events, Honoraria</i>)	110,356	171,205	163,602	150,612
Brought into Income accessibility grant improvements	20,000			
Total Revenue**	\$816,181	\$786,093	\$829,427	\$844,030
Expenses				
Program	533,564	403,468	507,898	459,110
Fundraising and Campaign	101,130	88,581	112,711	109,559
Administration	255,052	246,123	280,092	274,453
Amortization (<i>see note</i>)	14,500	37,544		19,608
Contingency	0			0
Total Expenses	\$ 904,246	\$775,716	\$900,701	\$862,730
Initial Surplus/Deficit***	(\$88,065)	\$10,377	(\$71,274)	(\$18,700)
Unrestricted Net Assets, beginning of year (<i>deficit approved by Board from investments</i>)		242,649		326,097
Transfer to Reserve		60,785		64,748
Unrestricted Net Assets, end of year		192,241		242,649

* The complete audited statements are available upon request.

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

*** Noting the surpluses in previous years, a deficit was approved for 2021 to allow for the last full year of rental payments and to handle any shortfalls due to Covid-19.

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