



CITIZENS *for* PUBLIC JUSTICE



2008 Annual Report

Citizens for Public Justice is a national organization of members inspired by faith to act for justice in Canadian public policy.

FROM THE BOARD CHAIRS

In times of economic and political uncertainty, it is especially important to have a consistent public witness to the most important values for our life together as Canadians: care for God's creation and justice for all, especially those without economic power in today's context. CPJ provides that voice. This year CPJ activities stretched from national election debates to community forums on poverty reduction. The CPJ team now uses a range of tools, including a lively website, regular commentary on current events, and discussing what public justice means with groups large and small.

MESSAGE OF HOPE

In the face of public cynicism about government, CPJ has brought a message of hope, grounded in the promise that doing justice is the root of a good life for Canada in times of prosperity or recession.

It has been a busy, first full year of operations in Ottawa, with a new Executive Director who learned quickly on the job – and with good

humour. Now we look forward to the results of a strategic planning process to sharpen the way CPJ implements the vision and mission that has guided us for more than 45 years.

THANK YOU

A sincere thank you to our outgoing board members, Lisa Chisholm-Smith, Bill Lodewyk and Annie McKittrick, for all of their hard work and dedication.

We acknowledge and thank the supporting community for making CPJ an effective expression of faith in the public square. Your support is an exercise of active citizenship.



- Kathy Vandergrift



- Jim Joesse



CPJ Board members (November 2008): Maria Páez Victor, Annie McKittrick, Maylanne Maybee, Jim Joesse, Lisa Chisholm-Smith, Kathy Vandergrift, Mike Bulthuis, Emily Hutten, Fred Wind, Ruth van Mossel Adema. Missing: Bill Lodewyk and Mark Huyser-Wierenga.

POVERTY REDUCTION

2008 brought the launch of our **Envisioning Canada Without Poverty** campaign, which focused on encouraging CPJ members to write to their MPs and call for a federal poverty reduction strategy in Budget 2009.

As part of the campaign, CPJ held workshops in five cities across Canada during 2008. Almost 150 people participated in Halifax, Ottawa, London, Winnipeg and Edmonton. At the workshops, CPJ staff led discussions about the causes of poverty and how we, our communities and our governments can ensure all Canadians live with dignity. In each location, participants raised thoughtful questions and shared their advocacy experiences.

A key component of the ECWP



campaign was engaging with MPs. **CPJ members wrote numerous letters to their local MPs, and CPJ staff visited Parliament Hill** to continue this dialogue about poverty in Canada with various MPs. These discussions centred on the government's role in reducing poverty, and CPJ staff had honest and open conversations with each MP about the challenges of comprehensively addressing poverty.

On Oct. 17, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, CPJ coordinated the Stand Up and Take Action event in Ottawa. Socio-economic policy analyst Karri Munn-Venn spoke about the urgent need to speak out in solidarity to end poverty now.

LIVABLE INCOMES

Throughout 2008, **CPJ encouraged dialogue on guaranteed livable incomes (GLI)**, meeting with local experts across the country. CPJ was one

of few organizations invited to attend the Senate sub-committee on cities' roundtable discussion on GLI. Policy analyst Chandra Pasma participated in the discussion and later continued the conversation, with executive director Harry Kits and 2008/09 policy intern Trixie Ling, in a meeting with Senator Hugh Segal.

Chandra also participated in a basic income conference in Ireland, and helped establish the Canadian affiliate of the Basic Income Earth Network, a group dedicated to providing education and information on GLI.

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

CPJ's work on poverty extended beyond advocating for a reduction strategy. It also included **significant**

advocates, was joined by MPs Olivia Chow, Justin Trudeau and Nicole Demers at the press conference, calling on the federal government to take strong, immediate action on poverty.

THE CATALYST

Our quarterly publication *the Catalyst* won **four Canadian Church Press awards** for several feature articles. Our Groundings section also received recognition for its thoughtful biblical reflections.

In addition, the 2008 editions of our respected newsletter covered issues ranging from the tar sands fever threatening CPJ members Wayne and Luz-Maria Groot's farm to the Aboriginal Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

letter. Each *Ola!* focused on a specific election issue, with thorough articles, additional candidate questions, and links to further resources.

CPJ had an average of three media hits per week during the election, further highlighting public justice issues and providing commentary on the election. CPJ also co-ordinated an **all-party debate on poverty and inequality** in Canada with 31 other organizations. Over 300 people attended the debate, which featured representatives from all political parties (except for the Conservative Party).

HUMAN RIGHTS

In preparation for the United Nations Human Rights Council's universal periodic review of Canada's record on



research on housing and homelessness in Canada. Trixie Ling attended the Canadian Housing Renewal Association's 40th annual congress as a young housing leader, engaging with academics, community leaders and affordable housing advocates.

ON THE HILL

CPJ's close proximity to Parliament Hill allowed staff to meet with MPs and Senators from all political parties. CPJ staff also encountered MPs at various events, which provided many opportunities to make connections, have spontaneous conversations, and set up official meetings.

In November, executive director Joe Gunn participated in a press conference on Parliament Hill about **Campaign 2000's report card on poverty in Canada.** Joe, along with other prominent poverty reduction

ADVOCACY TOOLKIT

CPJ's **unique advocacy toolkit** was published in early September. Filled with tips on how to write letters to MPs, organize demonstrations and develop petitions, this resource has quickly become popular amongst school groups, individuals and community organizations.

ELECTION 2008

CPJ's federal election bulletin, **Public Justice: A leadership lens for Election 2008**, explored issues from poverty to taxation to the environment, and set out thoughtful and provocative questions for candidates. Distributed to our members, churches and throughout communities, it was a popular and widely-read resource.

New to CPJ's election coverage were our weekly election *Ola!*s, special editions of our monthly email news-

human rights, CPJ submitted a **brief outlining Canada's record on poverty.** Entitled *From Promise to Action: Implementing Canada's commitments on poverty*, it highlighted the 1989 House of Commons unanimous motion to end child poverty by the year 2000, noting how child poverty rates have, in fact, stayed the same. CPJ also noted the lack of affordable housing, as well as the disproportionately high rates of Aboriginal poverty in Canada. The brief recommended that Canada should adopt a federal poverty reduction strategy to address these serious shortcomings.

PARLIAMENTARY ANALYSIS

CPJ responded to government happenings throughout the year. In March, **our federal budget analysis identified the lack of measures to reduce poverty, address homelessness and**

STAFF DURING 2008

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.

It was a year of many goodbyes and welcomes as CPJ continued to settle into Ottawa.

Marief Angus
2008/09 public justice intern

Suzanne Boileau
director, finance and operations
(starting March 2008)

Karen Diepeveen
communications coordinator

Kevin Elder
financial development assistant and
data manager (May 2008)

Darryl Exelby
membership and development officer
(Nov. 2008)

Marguerite Grant
administrative assistant (May 2008)

Joe Gunn
executive director (August 2008)

Jennifer Heggland
intern (January – April 2008)

Harry Kits
executive director (until June 2008)

Michael Krakowiak
communications technology specialist

Trixie Ling
2007/08 public justice intern

Marie McArdle
receptionist/administrative
assistant (until March 2008)

Darlene McLeod
financial development assistant
(maternity leave May 2008)

Karri Munn-Venn
socio-economic policy analyst
(September 2008)

Chandra Pasma
public justice policy analyst

Maria Roberts
communications summer intern

Danielle Tracey
intern (Sept. – Dec. 2008)

Claire Veenstra
business/office coordinator
(until March 2008)



protect the environment. CPJ called on the government to take leadership responsibility on these and other urgent public justice issues.

After our extensive election coverage, CPJ continued responding to political events in the fall. The government's November Speech from the Throne once again did not acknowledge the most vulnerable Canadians.

Their subsequent Economic and Fiscal Statement focused on cutting party subsidies. In response to this announcement, CPJ board co-chairs

Kathy Vandergrift and Jim Joosse authored a letter to the Prime Minister, **urging the government to keep political party financing public.**

COMMUNICATION AND DIALOGUE

In October, CPJ launched **our refurbished WWW.CPJ.CA.** The new website incorporates all of our old website's features, but is better, faster and more comprehensive! Continuing our weekly web feature, CPJ has added a blog to the website, which staff con-

tribute to several times per week. These new resources allow people across Canada to converse with us to expand our conversation, comment on more issues, and participate in more dialogue with fellow Canadians.

2008 also saw CPJ's media presence increase. Along with regular columns in several religious newspapers, **CPJ was sought out for commentary on political and public justice issues.** Our op-eds, articles and press releases raised awareness of public justice in Canada.

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.

OUR SUPPORTERS

Citizens for Public Justice would like to thank the many individuals, religious congregations, churches, foundations and businesses whose continuing commitment and support make our work possible. Your generous gifts help us continue our good work and the values you believe in.

We know that partnerships are an important part of achieving results and in 2008, CPJ made great strides on behalf of our supporters. With your generous support, CPJ is making real progress in strengthening our ability to increase our impact.

We are humbled by the generosity you have all shown and energized by the knowledge that, by working in partnership and unity with incredible people across this country, together we are making a difference. Your prayers, encouragement, financial gifts and commitment to make public justice a priority sustain us.

Thank you!



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR...

My first five months of work at Citizens for Public Justice have been exciting and fulfilling. Any person with a vibrant and faith-filled passion for social and ecological justice would find the experience here worthy of all their efforts!

A highlight for me was the privilege of meeting supporters, some of you longtime CPJ members, during my travels to presentations in British Columbia, Alberta and southern Ontario. This is indeed an organization with the feel of a movement to it: we are only as strong as our supporters make us. I'm anxious to visit more members in 2009.

I have reveled in the proximity to Parliament Hill, where every month we are engaging policy makers and

Parliamentarians on the key issues of the day. This is work where it is not easy to show concrete, immediate results, yet every so often a glimmer of hope emerges. Election 2008, and the debates leading up to and following it, showed me how substantial publics are interested in what this organization has to say. The many media who search out CPJ for commentary and publish our work confirm the fact that CPJ's voice is unique and appreciated. Those who came before us on staff and as volunteers on the Board and Committees have set high standards of probing research, respectful advocacy and thoughtful dialogue – even policy makers who disagree with us take CPJ seriously.

CPJ now has several new, energetic and capable staff in place. Our Board

members are experienced and our volunteers and supporters, truly committed. Unlike many groups in Ottawa, CPJ's mission is to advocate not for our individual interests, but for those of the vulnerable people and damaged ecology that demand our faithful accompaniment. It is such a blessing to be part of this work that, in all humility, we invite all to join in and support your organization in 2009 and beyond!

-Joe Gunn



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CPJ's 45th year was a momentous one. Marking our first full year in Ottawa, CPJ developed new levels of communications with MPs. Building on a long history of dedicated and thoughtful advocacy, CPJ expanded into new initiatives, laying the groundwork for the coming years.

The year involved saying goodbye to long-time staff, and welcoming new team members to the Ottawa office. New CPJ members volunteered their time, and long-standing supporters continued to build up CPJ's strong voice.

All in all, it was a blessed year – God is good!

Financial Notes

CPJ's major gift campaign ended with success in 2007, as the move to Ottawa was completed and the new office opened near Parliament Hill. The generous financial support of individual CPJ members continues to be the bedrock of CPJ support and a source of inspiration to us all. However, the economic downturn and several other factors combined in 2008 to create a difficult financial situation.

As the economy contracted, some larger donors were unable to maintain their previous level of giving. Even though CPJ spent less than in the year previous, CPJ's income did not cover expenses.

Income from churches and religious congregations continues to grow, and for this we are most grateful. In tough economic times, when all charities face increased need, we are humbled by the example of so many donors whose commitment to public justice – through your prayers, volunteer participation, and financial contributions – continues to encourage our common journey.

CITIZENS FOR PUBLIC JUSTICE

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Charitable Number:
89438 3512 RR0001
(CJL Foundation)

CJL FOUNDATION operating as

CITIZENS FOR PUBLIC JUSTICE

2008 Financial Statements*

BALANCE SHEET as of December 31	2008	2007
Assets		
Cash	\$56,507	\$27,057
Accounts Receivable	11,160	134,528
Prepaid Expenses	13,241	11,387
Due from CPJ Corp	0	2,300
Fixed Assets	42,231	55,300
Total Assets	\$123,139	\$230,572
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	21,750	13,365
Notes payable	102,253	142,253
Deferred Revenue	0	400
Total Liabilities	\$124,003	\$156,108
Fund Balance	\$(864)	\$74,554
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$123,139	\$230,572

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND NET ASSETS

	Actual 2008	Budget 2008	Actual 2007	Budget 2009
Revenues				
Memberships	\$39,139	\$48,000	\$41,180	\$45,000
Donations	298,183	437,689	241,990	350,000
Campaign	188,041	180,000	381,673	60,000
Bequests		-	23,965	12,000
Churches/Religious Congregations	69,829	65,000	65,333	150,000
Grants	25,000	35,000	4,950	65,500
Other	20,275	31,700	50,460	40,000
Total	\$640,467	\$797,389	\$809,551	\$723,000
Expenses				
Salary/Benefits	420,125	492,495	428,347	469,100
Occupancy	74,141	77,605	91,839	83,057
Program	100,013	90,650	57,834	56,750
Program Support:				
Administration	72,348	78,039	69,254	63,847
Fundraising	35,166	58,600	50,837	37,400
Amortization	14,092		26,668	12,738
Total	\$715,885	\$797,389	\$724,779	\$723,000
Excess revenues/expenses	\$(75,418)		\$84,771	
Net assets (deficiency), beginning	\$74,554	\$74,554	\$(10,217)	
Net assets (deficiency), end	\$(864)	\$74,554	\$74,554	

* Audited statements with notes available upon request