



CPJ Board members (May 2015): Leah Watkiss, Will Postma, Wayne Groot, Trixie Ling, Adrian Helleman, Mike Bos, Thea de Groot, Naomi Kabugi, Monique Verhoef, John Murphy, Jim Dekker, and Lee Hollaar. Absent: Genevieve Gallant, Patricia Fitzmaurice, Dwayne Hodgson.

## ANNUAL REPORT 2015

### FROM CPJ'S BOARD CHAIR & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**L**ooking back and reading these few pages of your organization's Annual Report, we think you'll agree that 2015 was a year of many highlights for CPJ – and much change for Canada!

We all recognize that a federal election and the arrival of a new government is a time of increased public scrutiny of parties and policies. In 2015, CPJ developed a new three-year strategy by which to promote democratic engagement, poverty reduction, ecological justice, and concern for refugees. CPJ will work hard in 2016 to promote its mission with a new government and to support policies and practices which reflect God's call for love, justice, and the flourishing of Creation.

Thanks to supporters like you, in 2015, CPJ was able to meet its financial goals. Many donors delivered their multi-year sacrificial financial commitments through the "Building Public Justice Together" campaign. An unexpected and very generous year-end gift has enabled CPJ to hire an additional Public Justice Intern for September 2016 – an expression of CPJ's desire to reach out and inspire the next generation of youth. Due to the expiry of a major multi-year grant for our poverty work, 2016's budget will be in slight deficit, which the board has approved. But with your on-going support, we will work hard to minimize and manage the deficit – and soon erase it.

CPJ wants to express deep appreciation to three Board members who have completed

their terms in office. Dwayne Hodgson provided invaluable professional assistance in guiding two strategic planning processes for the organization. John Murphy's deep and insightful experience mentored many aspects of our anti-poverty efforts. And Will Postma's incredible energy as Board chair was a true inspiration.

These pages provide a bird's eye view of how your commitment to public justice made a difference in 2015. We are grateful to our staff, members, donors and the many volunteers who give of their time and gifts.

On behalf of the board and staff, we would like to thank you for your faithful participation in CPJ and its work – and we invite you to collaborate with us in the exciting year ahead!

—Will Postma and Joe Gunn



# 2015: A YEAR OF PROGRESS

2015 was a time of significant forward movement and tangible results at Citizens for Public Justice. Throughout the year, we promoted public justice in Canada and encouraged citizens and leaders in society to support policies and practices which reflect God's call for love, justice, and the flourishing of Creation. With our focus on poverty in Canada, ecological justice, and refugee rights, we have seen the impact that people of faith can make on our public life when we speak clearly and with one voice.

To this end, CPJ undertook four major initiatives in 2015. We also continued the work of public justice that we are known for: hosting workshops and events, meeting with and writing to political leaders, and publishing our in-depth research and analysis.

## JUSTICE TOUR 2015

CPJ collaborated with the Canadian Council of Churches (CCC) for Justice Tour 2015, a series of faithful gatherings of concerned Christians in cities across Canada.



*Karen Hamilton, the General Secretary of the CCC; Willard Metzger, Executive Director of the Mennonite Church Canada; and Susan Johnson, National Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada speak during the Justice Tour event in Ottawa.*

For two weeks in April and May, a delegation of national church leaders travelled to eight cities to engage people of faith in conversations about poverty in Canada and climate change. CPJ's Executive Director, Joe Gunn accompanied the three speakers as they prayed with and learned from faith communities in Vancouver, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Kitchener-Waterloo, Halifax, Montreal, and Ottawa.

### MEDIA HITS

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Reflecting on the tour, Bishop Susan said, "People are calling on the churches for moral leadership in the areas of poverty and climate change. We are being urged to move beyond charity to look at the systemic causes of both these issues. We are also being urged to see how much the concerns of Indigenous Peoples overlap with both poverty and climate change."

## LETTERS & STATEMENTS

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Following the tour, CPJ helped to coordinate *On Promoting Climate Justice and Ending Poverty in Canada*, an inter-faith declaration from Canadian faith leaders. This was the first such declaration in four years. It was released before the federal election and garnered over 65 organizational signatures representing the country's largest faith communities. This statement proposed stronger policy and action on climate change, poverty, and justice for indigenous people.

## DIGNITY FOR ALL

After five years, through six policy summits, and with endorsements from over 11,000 individuals and 600 organizations, the Dignity for All Campaign released our *National Anti-Poverty Plan for Canada* on February 3, 2015.



*Joe Gunn presents the National Anti-Poverty Plan for Canada on Parliament Hill.*

This model plan outlines the federal government's responsibility to ensure a poverty-free Canada, and recommends six key areas for action: housing, income security, early childhood education and care, health, food, and employment.

The plan received wide-spread media coverage and five MPs mentioned it in the House of Commons. The day after the Dignity

for All release, MPs passed a nearly-unanimous motion calling on the government "to eradicate child poverty in Canada by developing a national poverty reduction plan."



*ChewOnThis! volunteers on Parliament Hill.*

Next, CPJ and Canada Without Poverty took the plan on the road. We began the Dignity for All workshop series in the spring with stops in in Charlottetown and Halifax. In May, we travelled through Ontario to Toronto, Hamilton, Port Colborne, Windsor, and Sarnia. And, finally in September workshops were presented in Ottawa, Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, Victoria, and Whitehorse.

## WORKSHOPS & PRESENTATIONS

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Dignity for All highlighted the need for a federal anti-poverty plan during our third annual ChewOnThis! event just days before the federal election in October. Over 50 organizations participated – from St. John's to Victoria to Whitehorse – and distributed over 12,000 lunch bags containing a food item and information about poverty in Canada.

CPJ expects to make significant progress on this file in 2016. In November, Canada's new Prime Minister issued a mandate letter to the new Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, calling for him to "lead the development of a Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy that would set targets to reduce poverty and measure and publicly report on our progress."

# PRAYERS FOR COP21 IN PARIS

CPJ was vocal in calling for climate justice throughout 2015. For Earth Hour, we published an op-ed in the *Toronto Star*, calling for Canadians to go further in their environmental actions. Then, on June 18, when Pope Francis released a bold encyclical on the environment and climate change, Joe Gunn was on CBC's *The National* providing insights and analysis.

## EVENTS

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Glen Pearson speaks at CPJ's Annual General Meeting in London, Ont.

As global attention began to turn more fully to the international climate change negotiations held in Paris, CPJ launched Prayers

for COP21 in Paris in late September. This collection of materials helped worship leaders engage their communities in climate justice.

We made sure to have our recommendations in the hands of Canada's newly minted Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, and then we turned our attention to prayer.

As part of CPJ's prayer chain for climate justice, Canadians prayed for 296 consecutive hours during Paris climate talks.

Concerned kids, parents, farmers, musicians, scientists, grandmothers, ministers, national churches, and friends, all across Canada (and beyond!) participated. Each focused an hour of their energy towards those marginalized by climate change and those making high-level decisions about how it will be addressed.

With the prayerful support of citizens around the world, leaders from 195 countries have crafted the *Paris Agreement*.

As momentum for climate action continues to build, we are excited about the emerging opportunities for engagement both in faith communities and with the new government. Canada has committed to developing a pan-Canadian framework for climate action and CPJ will be a part of that process.



CPJ's Darlene O'Leary and Brad Wassink at the March for Climate Solutions and Justice in Ottawa.

## PUBLICATIONS

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- National Anti-Poverty Plan for Canada (February)
- CPJ's new Advocacy Toolkit (March)
- Taxes for the Common Good: A Public Justice Primer on Taxation (May)
- The Invisible Victims: Examining the Impacts of a Minimum Residency Requirement for Social Assistance on Refugee Claimants (July)
- 2015 Election Bulletin: Exercising Faithful Citizenship (August)
- On the Margins: A Glimpse of Poverty in Canada (October)
- Prayers for COP21 in Paris Resources (November)

# 2015 ELECTION BULLETIN

In October of this year, Canadians elected a new government, sending 200 brand new Members of Parliament to Ottawa, including 30 new cabinet ministers. During the campaign, over 7,000 copies of our *2015 Election Bulletin: Exercising Faithful Citizenship* were widely used across the country as a resource for engagement and discussion.

## ELECTION BULLETINS DISTRIBUTED

7,171

This bulletin offered a public justice perspective on four issues: poverty elimination, climate justice, refugee rights, and democracy in Canada. It also included a series of questions for citizens to raise at local debates or when candidates came to their door.

In the lead up to the election, CPJ's voice was heard in both Christian and mainstream media. In addition to mentions in several print articles, CPJ's Karri Munn-Venn spoke with CBC Radio One stations across Canada about poverty and the federal election campaign, and Joe offered commentary and analysis on

faith and politics, refugee policy, and climate change on the television program *Context with Lorna Dueck*.

Of course the work of faithful citizenship didn't end with the election; there is still a lot to do! In 2016, CPJ will encourage our new leaders and provide opportunities for citizens to hold them to account.

## MEETINGS ON THE HILL

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Brad Wassink and Janelle Vandergrift meet with Irene Mathysen, NDP MP for London-Fanshawe.

## STAFF DURING 2015

**Executive Director**  
Joe Gunn

**Communications and Development Specialist**  
Michael Krakowiak

**Communications Coordinator**  
Brad Wassink

**Coordinator, Finance and Administration**  
David Pollock

**Development Officer**  
Jim McIntyre

**Policy Analysts**  
Karri Munn-Venn  
Janelle Vandergrift (until June)  
Darlene O'Leary (began July)

**Public Justice Intern**  
Kathryn Teeluck (until Aug.)  
Miriam Mahaffy (began Sept.)

**Research Associate**  
Katherine Scott

### Interns

Communications – Elizabeth Keith (Summer)  
Social Work – Laura Gwayumba (Sept. – Dec.)

# FINANCIAL NOTES

We had much to be thankful for in 2015.

Our revenues were the highest they have ever been. Income exceeded \$875,000; including several bequests and a wonderful surprise Christmas gift of \$50,000! We are so grateful to all of our supporters both large and small for your continued financial support of CPJ's important mission. Your support has allowed the Board to put more funds away toward an eventual public justice house, which is a key pillar of our five-year fundraising campaign, "Building Public Justice Together."

Because of your generosity, we will be able to hire **two** public justice interns in September 2016 to further develop youth leadership within CPJ. Thank you!

We must not forget however, that our 2016 budget does not include the special \$90,000 grant that we had received from a religious congregation over the past several years. As such, the board is recommending a deficit budget for 2016. We will cover the shortfall by using the reserves that have been built up. Our expenses have grown to \$726,630 during the 2015 financial year as we return to a full staff complement and run our program activities at full capacity. We will focus on growing new income streams in 2016 in order to reduce, and soon eliminate, our deficit.

I would like to thank the members of the Finance Committee and the staff who serve it most effectively. Please continue to offer your generous support to CPJ so that we may truly work to build God's Kingdom of public justice.

—Mike Bos, Treasurer



CITIZENS FOR  
PUBLIC JUSTICE

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Charitable Number:

89438 3512 RR0001 (CJL Foundation)

## CJL FOUNDATION OPERATING AS CITIZENS FOR PUBLIC JUSTICE 2015 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS\*

Balance Sheet as of December 31	2015	2014
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash	232,455	253,817
Investments	312,947	147,882
Accounts Receivable	22,171	17,725
Prepaid Expenses	7,046	7,039
Fixed Assets	5,209	3,700
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$579,828</b>	<b>\$430,163</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	11,797	11,887
Notes Payable	73,000	97,580
Deferred for Public Justice House Fund	53,250	27,750
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$138,047</b>	<b>\$137,217</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Bequest Fund	110,776	69,692
Unrestricted Net Assets	331,005	223,254
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$441,781</b>	<b>\$292,946</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$579,828</b>	<b>\$430,163</b>

Statement of Revenue, Expenditure and Change in Net Assets	Budget 2016	Actual 2015	Budget 2015	Actual 2014
<b>Revenue</b>				
Individuals	503,731	456,805	478,948	389,905
Bequests	0	41,084	0	0
Churches	40,000	40,335	36,750	50,618
Religious Congregations & Orders	100,000	209,767	185,000	181,350
Other Charities (are mostly individual donations as well)	30,250	74,896	30,250	79,430
Foundations (\$25,000 grant for House shown only on balance sheet)	20,000	6,540	30,000	4,700
Other Income (Sales, Events, Honoraria)	14,235	46,038	37,235	48,627
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$708,216</b>	<b>\$875,465</b>	<b>\$798,183</b>	<b>\$754,630</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Program	524,985	502,938	548,772	446,230
Fundraising and Campaign	128,549	128,147	133,746	113,935
Administration	99,230	93,403	102,296	85,180
Amortization	1,500	2,142	0	953
Contingency	10,000		10,000	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$764,264</b>	<b>\$726,630</b>	<b>\$794,814</b>	<b>\$646,298</b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit**</b>	<b>-\$56,048</b>	<b>\$148,835</b>	<b>\$3,369</b>	<b>\$108,332</b>
Unrestricted Net Assets, beginning of year		223,254		127,150
Transfer to Bequest Fund (as a result of transfer of funds since beginning of policy)		-41,084		-12,228
Unrestricted Net Assets, end of year		331,005		223,254
Increase in Public Justice House Fund		25,500		25,750
Total end of year in Public Justice House Fund		53,250		27,750

\* The complete audited statements are available upon request.

\*\*The proposed deficit allows for a transition from the loss of a \$90,000 grant, the addition of a second intern and utilization of the accumulated surplus.