

KAIROS in Action

April –September 2009, Vol. 3.3, 3.4

Beginning in April 2009, KAIROS staff began implementing the decisions of a re-mandating and re-structuring process initiated by the Board in the fall of 2008. Beginning April 22, 2009, KAIROS refocused its programmatic work around two thematic areas— Sustainability and Dignity and Rights. Staff moved into revised job positions in these two thematic teams and an additional outreach team. The restructuring resulted in layoffs in five positions and the creation of two new positions. A strategic planning process (2010-2015) has now begun which will give more specific direction within these broad program theme areas. While this significant restructuring was unfolding, our program work continued...

Building an Inclusive Movement



From June 17-20, 2009 the KAIROS community gathered in an inspiring and dynamic event at the University of Waterloo. Inuit leader Shelia Watt Cloutier, biblical theologian Ched

Myers, Filipina ecumenical leader Sharon Ruiz Duremdes and many others challenged the participants to strengthen their efforts in faith inspired social justice. Close to 50 young adults attended this event bringing their energy and enthusiasm for the work of justice. The event was preceded by a special session for the anti-poverty networks and was followed by a migrant justice forum. For a brief report on the Gathering contact Fahira Golich at fgolich@kairoscanada.org or see the many follow up resources including keynote speaker presentations available at <http://www.kairoscanada.org/en/get-involved/gathering/>.

Faithful Action for Justice
KAIROS Program 2006-2010

Up Next!

Ring the Bells for Climate Justice December 13th at 3:00pm!

From December 7-18, 2009 in Copenhagen leaders the world over will meet to negotiate a new climate change pact. Members of the worldwide church community will hold an ecumenical service on December 13th to pray for a just outcome for the world and its peoples. The service will conclude with bell ringing throughout Denmark to call the leaders of the world to account. We want that sound of love and justice for God's creation to echo around the world!

Ring the bells at your church on December 13, 2009, 3:00pm local time!

Make a large banner to place outside your church to tell your neighbours what the fuss is about. Proclaim your message—the world needs real science-based climate targets and political will to minimize the impact of climate change on peoples and the earth! Contact Sara Stratton, Education and Campaigns Coordinator, Sustainability at sstratton@kairoscanada.org so we can add you to our list of climate justice bell ringers.

Your community may also wish to participate in local events on the **International Day of Climate Action December 12, 2009**. To find out about events in your area, or to read up-to-date reports from our staff and global partners in Copenhagen, go to our website at www.kairoscanada.org and follow links on Copenhagen off the front page.

Petition signatures—Keep them coming!

We will continue to receive petition signatures up until November 30, 2009 so keep them coming. You can sign online at <http://www.kairoscanada.org/en/get-involved/campaign/kyotoplus-petition/>

Sustainability: Promoting Energy Justice



In May of 2009, KAIROS took a delegation of seventeen church leaders, activists, global partners and staff members to Athabasca Tar Sands where the industry has dramatically altered ecosystems and economies, and continues to grow at a startling rate despite the recent economic downturn. The effects are felt on Indigenous groups, local communities, and workers.

The delegation listened attentively to churches, community groups, Indigenous communities, government and industry and prepared a final statement. KAIROS has also developed a series of related digital resources:

- [A photo gallery](#) of the delegation's experience, including visits to Edmonton, Fort McMurray and the indigenous community of Fort Chipewyan.
- [A photo gallery](#) of KAIROS staff member Sara Stratton's flyover of the tar sands, taken in September 2008.
- [A video tour](#) of the delegation's flyover of the tar sands.

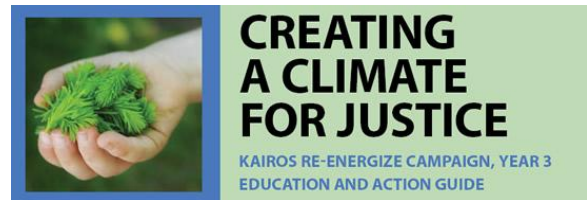
The digital resources and the statement, as well as other details of the delegation, can be found at:

<http://www.kairoscanada.org/en/get-involved/campaign/tar-sands-delegation/>

We are also working hard on the finishing touches of *Connecting the Drops*, a DVD on the Tar Sands based on the delegation experiences. To obtain a copy please contact Caroline Foster at

cfoster@kairoscanada.org or call 1-877-403-8933x221. The price will be \$5.00.

On June 27 and 28th, KAIROS staff participated in a World Council of Churches' (WCC) forum on Ecological Debt and contributed to a statement approved by the WCC's Central Committee. The statement advances the position that the ecological crisis which the world is facing has been induced largely by the consumerist cultures of the Northern industrial countries. It challenges the commodification of the earth as only "natural resources" to be exploited for profit. Further, the statement acknowledges the ecological debt that the North owes to the peoples of the South for the historical and present plundering of both their land and atmospheric commons. The WCC statement calls for action on the part of each of its member churches to advocate on behalf of climate justice by insisting that their governments adopt a fair and binding agreement at the UN negotiations on climate change when they meet in Copenhagen in December 2009. For further information contact Dorothy McDougall, Program Coordinator for Ecological Justice: 1.877.403.8933 x222 or dmcdougall@kairoscanada.org



Canadian church people continued to engage in the **Re-energize Campaign**, this year by signing the Kyoto Plus Petition. To support the petition signatures leading up to Copenhagen, and year long action on climate justice, we have developed the following educational resources:

Creating a Climate for Justice: Re-energize Campaign Education and Action Guide 2009-2010 17-page guide with theological reflection, worship materials, a workshop to help you better understand the issues, and

ideas for how you can engage in faithful action for justice. That includes making personal change by reducing your own greenhouse gas emissions as well as tips for engaged global citizenship.

Connecting Climate Justice and Global Poverty 4-page print resource outlining how climate change is threatening the livelihoods of the world's poorest, and calling churches to action.

These are also available from Caroline Foster at cfoster@kairoscanada.org or from the KAIROS website.



Dignity and Rights



KAIROS continues its solidarity with global partners in our focus countries. On August 31st, we issued an urgent appeal for the release of Golden Misabiko, the 53-year-old President



of the Katangan branch of the Association africaine de defense des droits de l'homme, ASADHO-Katanga, a respected Congolese human rights organization.

Misabiko was arrested on 24 July and charged with "threatening state security" because his organization published a report alleging state complicity in illegal mining at a uranium mine in Katanga province, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), a controversial mine that critics claim is polluting the air and water of the region. For more information on this unfolding story, contact KAIROS Human Rights Program Coordinator, John Lewis at 1.877.403.8933 x224 or jlewis@kairoscanada.org.

In August, KAIROS also expressed concerns about the arrest of a peaceful Palestinian activist. Mohammed Al-Khatib was arrested after travelling to Canada to raise awareness of the effects of the occupation on his west Bank Village of Bil'in. In June the village launched a lawsuit against a Canadian company involved in building Israeli-only settlements on the village's lands. Bil'in holds peaceful protests as well as non-violent attempts to reach village lands cut off by the Israeli Separation Wall. For more information on our work for a just peace in Israel-Palestine contact Maya Johnston, Middle East Global Partnerships, 1-877-403-8933x239 or mjohnston@kairoscanada.org.

We continue to work with our partners in Colombia as they raise concerns about the Canada-Colombia Free Trade Agreement (CCFTA). Canadian grassroots actions in the spring and summer strengthened opposition to the agreement. There was a partial victory in parliament when the Liberal Party called for a human rights impact assessment (HRIA) before ratifying the deal. Recent reports are that the government of Canada has notched the CCFTA down on the order paper, which means that it may come back up for debate later in the fall. Bill C-23 (the number given to the CCFTA) was expected to go to a vote early in this session

of parliament. The second reading, or at least part of it, took place in September but thanks to people's calls and letters to MPs, the vote did not go ahead.

Murders and threats continue unabated in Colombia such as the 2009 deaths of six Protestant church leaders from the province of Córdoba. In that province alone in 2008 there were 512 violent deaths, including six massacres. This is the highest murder rate in the past 18 years. For more information contact Rachel Warden, Latin American Partnership Program Coordinator: 1.877.403.8933 x242 or at rwarden@kairoscanada.org.

Out of concern for regional destabilization in Latin America, and informed by our regional partner CLAI (the Latin American Council of Churches), KAIROS also issued an urgent action regarding human rights violations in Honduras following the coup.



At home, KAIROS is supporting the 4th annual Sisters in Spirit Vigils (October 4) to draw attention to the more than 500 Aboriginal women across Canada who are missing or have been murdered. In this work we join together with Amnesty International, KAIROS, the National Association of Friendship Centres, the Canadian Federation of Students and the Native Women's Association of Canada. To read our joint statement, go to the NWAC web site: www.nwac-hq.org. For more information contact KAIROS Indigenous Rights Program Coordinator Ed Bianchi: 613 235.9956 x221, ebianchi@kairoscanada.org

The Dignity Rights team is exploring new ways to link international and Canadian work on human rights into a focused

program. On thematic currently being explored would support "women of courage" who are working against violence in many places of the globe such as Canada, Congo, Palestine, Colombia, and the Philippines

Seeking a resource development expert!

KAIROS seeks a skilled resource development person to help us increase revenue by one million dollars over three years.

If you are a creative, skilled fundraiser, care about social justice and appreciate a dynamic staff and program, apply by November 27, 2009 by mail or in person to Fahira Golich, KAIROS, 310 Dupont St., Suite 200, Toronto, ON M5R 1V9. Send a cover letter, your resume and a fundraising portfolio detailing relevant achievements

\$65,000 pro-rated for a four-day week, plus compensation in lieu of benefits.

Eleven Canadian churches and church related organizations working together for justice and peace.



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