**Important Events**

**Fall Regional Meetings:**
- Atlantic: Sept 28-29
- Cambrian-Agassiz: Oct 4-5
- Great Lakes/St Lawrence: Oct 18-20

**Elements of Justice in BC:** Oct 24-27

**World Council of Churches in Busan, South Korea:** Oct 28-Nov 9; Jennifer Henry will host a workshop on resource extraction

**Watershed Discipleship Retreat**
Fort Qu'Appelle SK: May 9-11, 2014

---

**Building an Effective Ecumenical Movement for Ecological Justice and Human Rights**

**Movement Building**
Sara Stratton worked with folks from all KAIROS member denominations to develop our second Advent Resource, "Growing Justice," which explores four justice focuses (Gender-Based Violence in the DRC/HIV-AIDS in Africa; International Human Rights/Right Relationship; Ecological Justice/Water; Justice Discipleship) in light of both the traditional Advent themes and the Advent Garden observance. "Growing Justice" is now available in print and pdf in the online store.

**Ecological Economy**
This fall KAIROS staff are beginning to pilot our "Watershed Discipleship" program as workshops and presentations across the country. We will engage participants who could help facilitate events when the full campaign begins in 2014.

Planning has begun in earnest for our first full "Watershed Discipleship" retreat, to be held at the Calling Lakes Centre in Fort Qu'Appelle SK next spring ... we're eager to host more of these events (both retreats and shorter workshops), which will explore our call to work towards ecological justice from the perspective of the Bible, our local ecological reality, and the global context.

*Sara Stratton*

*sstratton@kairoscanada.org*

**Digital Communications**
The Digital Communications Coordinator, Nik Beeson, continues to research the most appropriate Constituent Relations Management system in order to holistically integrate the engagement and interactions of the KAIROS network into a single unified database. This will require a migration of the current database system, as well as possibly rebuilding the website. It is a very significant organizational development task which will enable much more direct and agile connections with our supporters, and more effective outreach for fundraising and advocacy campaigns.

*Nik Beeson*

*nbeeson@kairoscanada.org*

**Elements of Justice**
Shannon Neufeldt, interim Network and Young Adult Coordinator, has been working since February with a dedicated team of nine volunteers to plan the western intergenerational gathering, Elements of Justice. Our regional reps, Janet Gray, Dick Peters, and Carin Crowe have been central to this effort. The rest of our volunteers are young adults who represent a wide spectrum of our members: Andraea Sartison, ELCIC; Shaya Gasnarek, PWRDF; Katrina Laquian, D+P; Cam Gray, ACC and Sustainability Circle; Elyse Brazel, Movement Building Circle with SCM connections. Helen Knott was a youth representative to the United Nations on behalf of KAIROS and the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society in 2012 and will represent KAIROS on the UCC delegation to Guatemala in November.

With this team we have put together a strong and diverse program including keynote speakers Christine Boyle, Spirited Social Change; Sylvia McAdam, Idle No More; and Caleb Behn, *Fractured Land.*

*Shannon Neufeldt*

*sneufeldt@kairoscanada.org*

---

**Fall Regional Meetings:**
- Atlantic: Sept 28-29
- Cambrian-Agassiz: Oct 4-5
- Great Lakes/St Lawrence: Oct 18-20

**Elements of Justice in BC:** Oct 24-27

**World Council of Churches in Busan, South Korea:** Oct 28-Nov 9; Jennifer Henry will host a workshop on resource extraction

**Watershed Discipleship Retreat**
Fort Qu'Appelle SK: May 9-11, 2014
Sustainability – Promoting Climate and Mining Justice

Hupacasath First Nation and FIPA
In August, KAIROS hosted Brenda Sayers, a band councillor from the Hupacasath First Nation on Vancouver Island. Ms Sayers eloquently explained why the Hupacasath had filed a request in a federal court seeking a judicial review of the government’s decision to proceed with the Canada-China Foreign Investment Protection Agreement (FIPA). Her stop at KAIROS’ Toronto office was part of a week-long tour that included events in Montreal, Ottawa, Peterborough and Belleville.

The Hupacasath FN application asserts that the federal government failed to consult with First Nations on an issue affecting their Indigenous rights as required by Section 35 of the Canadian constitution and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This challenge to the investor-state provisions of FIPA also defends the rights of non-Indigenous Canadians.

A new KAIROS Briefing Paper First Nations Challenge Foreign Investment Protection Agreements describes how investor-state provisions threaten Canadian public services, such as health care, and the integrity of the environment. It also explores the validity of the concerns raised by the Hupacasath and other First Nations in light of recent investment tribunal cases.

John Dillon
jdillon@kairosCanada.org

Resource Extraction
Sara Stratton and Jennifer Henry facilitated an education session on "Responsible Resource Extraction" for the Joint Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the Anglican Church of Canada in July. The churches subsequently adopted a resolution on the issue, and we are looking forward to working with them towards implementation. Video of the presentation is available on the KAIROS website, and an abridged version was published in the September issue of Canada Lutheran.

Dignity and Rights: Acting for Human Rights at Home and Abroad

Strengthening relationships
The Women of Courage and Indigenous rights programs continue to work closely together to facilitate exchanges and build relationships between Indigenous women in Canada and in the global South. In April, KAIROS partner Vernie Diano from Innabuyog in the Philippines had the opportunity to attend the TRC national event in Montreal and to participate in the panel “Women of Courage: Gendering Reconciliation” organized by KAIROS and Quebec Native Women. Later Vernie and KAIROS staff met with the Algonquin grandmothers (Kokoms). Vernie noted that the concerns raised by the Kokoms - resources extraction, logging, water and land claims - are shared by Indigenous communities in the Philippines as is the important role of women and of grandmothers in protecting the land and environment.

In May, Rachel Warden travelled to New Brunswick to take part in the Wabanaki Convergence Ceremony, initiated to bring healing to the land and waters and to bring people together to work to rebuild the Wabanaki Confederacy. The ceremony was organized by Wabanaki Elder Alma Brooks and, despite heavy rains, was attended by 75 people from several communities. The following month Alma Brooks travelled to Ottawa to participate in the KAIROS water action, which was hosted by the Algonquin Kokoms. In the spirit of strengthening and deepening these relationships between Indigenous women in Canada, KAIROS
supported the participation of Algonquin grandmothers in the Wabanaki Confederacy meetings in New Brunswick.

**Partner Participation in the TRC**

KAIROS facilitated the participation of Naty Atz Sunuc, an Indigenous partner and general coordinator of **CEIBA, the Association of Community Development and Promotion in Guatemala**, as an international witness at the BC National Event of the TRC in Vancouver, this September. Through participation in pre-TRC events and the official program, Naty’s presence brought international witness and solidarity to this important and historic process, as well as deepening and strengthening relationships with and between Indigenous peoples here in Canada and in Guatemala.

Rachel Warden
rwarden@kairoscanada.org

Naty, Ribka and Alice getting ready to paddle in the traditional Canoe Welcome at the TRC.

**Witness to the Women of Courage in the DRC**

The KAIROS church delegation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which took place in June, was invited and hosted by KAIROS-funded partner, Héritiers de la Justice (Heirs of Justice). The delegation looked at issues of gender-based sexual violence, peace building and resource extraction. The nine-person delegation was comprised of representatives of the Canadian Religious Conference, the Presbyterian Church in Canada, the United Church of Canada, KAIROS staff (Jim Davis and Ian Thomson), the Public Service Alliance of Canada (which support HJ’s legal clinic through KAIROS), as well as KAIROS partners the Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCAHLA) and the National Council of Churches of Burundi.

Delegation activities included a meeting with the Secretariat of the multilateral International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), a week of visiting HJ community organizations, civil society groups, and government and elected officials, a graveside memorial service to commemorate the life of Pascal Kabungulu, the late Executive Secretary of HJ, and a press briefing, held with several radio stations. A stop in Kinshasa allowed time to meet with the Canadian Embassy, the ICGLR DRC focal point, the Ministers of Justice and Gender, Family and Children, the leaders of the National Conference of Bishops (CENCO), the ecumenical Church of Christ in Congo, and civil society groups.

The Canadian members of the delegation reconvened in Montreal in August to evaluate the tour, and to plan media and advocacy outreach for the fall.

Ian Thomson
ithomson@kairoscanada.org

**Human Rights in the Philippines**

Connie Sorio, Partnerships Coordinator for Asia-Pacific and Jill Harris, member of Dignity and Rights Ecumenical Circle and Women of Courage traveled together to the Philippines in July 2013 to attend the International Conference on Human Rights in the Philippines. They were among the 27 Canadian delegates to the International Conference.

The conference was supported by KAIROS through a responsive grant and was attended by more than 250 delegates coming from 26 countries across North America, Latin America and Asia-Oceania and was successful in consolidating international solidarity friends and supporters who for decades had and continue to stand with the Filipino people in promoting human rights in the country.

Prior to the conference, Connie and Jill joined the international solidarity missions to provide foreign friends a glimpse of the economic and political situation that local people in the community experience in their daily lives, and a preview of some of the causes of injustice and human rights violations. Jill was hosted by Vernie Yocogan-Diano, also a member of the Women of Courage project and leader of an Indigenous women’s organization in the Cordillera. Connie went to Western Mindanao and joined church leaders in a fact finding
mission to a community that is currently under heavy militarization and experiencing gross human rights violations attributed to the presence of a Canadian owned mining company.

Connie Sorio

csorio@kairosCanada.org

Blanket Exercise

The Blanket Exercise’s popularity continues to grow. In August, staff facilitated the exercise at the BC Teachers’ Federation Learning Conference in Kamloops for close to 150 teachers, including all the provinces’ Aboriginal Educators. The exercise was submitted for the Governor General’s Award for Excellence in Community History. This application generated an impressive letter of support from the Assembly of First Nations that celebrated its partnership with KARIOS and described the exercise as a “very powerful and important activity.”

Cyclists from Akwesasne who were on the Nation to Nation bike tour incorporated Mohawk teachings into the exercise for their tour presentations and new engagements this fall. The exercise has also been featured in the Mohawk community of Kahnesahtake, at Niigaan in Conversation, at Brock University, at a ROJeP event in Montreal, and at a CRC meeting in Moncton where it was done in both English and French. KIRC members Priscilla Solomon and Harley Eagle each co-facilitated the blanket exercise as part of Education Day at the TRC National Events in Montreal and Vancouver respectively. The French version is seeing increased use, a version that focuses on the experience of Indigenous women was facilitated, and work continues on a version designed for New Canadians.

Ed Bianchi

ebianchi@kairosCanada.org

Nation to Nation Bike Tour

The Nation to Nation Bike Tour, in partnership with Akwesasne and The Otesha Project, was a key part of the 2013 Indigenous Rights Program. Its components included empowering youth, in particular Indigenous and New Canadian youth, to be change-makers and to be trained in using the Blanket Exercise, as well as building relationships between First Nations and local member denominations.

Ten tour members and two facilitators, one from the Mohawk community of Akwesasne and one KAIROS staff person, cycled from Akwesasne to Tyendinaga, in south-eastern Ontario. They spent almost five days receiving an orientation in Akwesasne before staying at Lutheran, Anglican, United and Presbyterian churches in towns along the Saint Lawrence River, ending at the pow wow in Tyendinaga. Tour members engaged in learning activities along the route and led three public events that featured the Blanket Exercise. The project brought together Indigenous youth from Akwesasne and Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, an international partner from Tanzania, and youth from a diversity of cultural backgrounds including the Ismaili Muslim community.

Katy Quinn

kquinn@kairosCanada.org