

We must join together to bring forth a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace.

– *Earth Charter*

## Posting from the Quaker Ecology Action Network (QEAN) Web Discussion List, 22 June 2005

Submitted by David Polster

“As a biologist, I have a problem with ‘Care for Creation’ as it is very close to the idea that ‘God’ created the world and everything that is in it—a concept that I can’t even come close to agreeing with, and one that I think is part of the root cause of the problems we are facing (if God created everything then God will fix things if we only ‘believe’ ... a very troubling train of thought that is becoming increasingly common).

For me, God is a much more abstract concept that embodies love, nurturing, and a variety of other heart-felt concepts. Our love of and restoration of the natural systems that operate on earth connect us with a love of God, but to actually make a positive contribution to the wellbeing of the planet we need to use all of our talents, scientific and religious. ...

I tend to find concepts like natural succession, nutrient cycling, evolution and genetic integrity to be more useful in living in harmony with our environment. The concept that we should ‘care’ for nature is problematic as well in that it sets us apart from the ecological systems that sustain us—we can’t care for nature—nature cares for us!!! The best we can do is ensure we don’t damage the systems that provide that care.” 🐌

*David Polster, a member of Duncan Worship Group, under the care of Victoria Monthly Meeting, is also a member of QEAN.*



### *Canadian Yearly Meeting National Listeners for Young Friends and Adults*



Canadian Yearly Meeting *National Listeners* are available to listen to any Canadian Friend disclose harm done on matters of sexual harassment or abuse, or any other topic a Friend may need to discuss.

If you need a listener, the first step is to approach a trusted Friend within your Monthly Meeting (MM), or to go to your MM Ministry and Counsel. If this path is not comfortable, you may contact a *National Listener*. Listeners seek to be present from a place of spirit-centred openness—to hold the caller and the situation in the Light, and to listen with tenderness. Knowing the healing that comes from simply being heard, we offer you a safe and confidential space in which to speak. One call might be all you need. If not, we have the task of discerning with you what a next step could be: whether a committee of care, of clearness, or of oversight might be appropriate; or how to find other possible resources. The *National Listeners* for adult Friends are:

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|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • <b>Ed Belzer:</b>         | Telephone: (902) 384-2730 | E-mail: belzer@ns.sympatico.ca |
| • <b>Dorothy Janes:</b>     | Telephone: (416) 929-8812 | E-mail: dorothyj@idirect.com   |
| • <b>Rose Marie Cipryk:</b> | Telephone: (905) 684-9924 | E-mail: rmcipryk@cogeco.ca     |
| • <b>Jay Cowsill:</b>       | Telephone: (306) 652-2407 | E-mail: jmc590@mail.usask.ca   |

Additionally, the following *National Listeners* for Young Friends are now also available:

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|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • <b>Julie Paradis:</b>     | Telephone: (403) 284-5946 | E-mail: turtlekate@telus.net  |
| • <b>Peter Stevenson:</b>   | Telephone: (765) 983-2054 | E-mail: stevepe@earlham.edu   |
| • <b>Nat Egan-Pimblett:</b> | Telephone: (604) 826-8859 | E-mail: data_dyne@hotmail.com |

*Whenever possible, please contact us first to arrange a mutually convenient time to speak later.*