

# Report: Implementing C'nR You can help!

*by Marilyn Manzer and Susan Stevenson*

Last summer after a comprehensive three-year process, Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM) approved many of the recommendations of the Consultation and Renewal Working Group (C'nR) - specifically the Quaker Education Program and Support for Young Friends. The Conclusions and Recommendations report is available in print from CYM office ([cym-office@quaker.ca](mailto:cym-office@quaker.ca)) and all the reports can be found at [www.quaker.ca](http://www.quaker.ca). In November, Representative Meeting appointed us (Marilyn Manzer and Susan Stevenson) to oversee implementation of approved C'nR recommendations.

The most important discovery of C'nR was that Canadian Quakers know too little about our history, our practices, our organization, and our beliefs. C'nR strongly recommended that we must rectify this if the Religious Society of Friends is to continue to exist in Canada. Hence it recommended a Quaker Education Program to be staffed to provide a variety of resources for visitors to Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups. It will decide on such important things as new Canadian pamphlets. Equally important, C'nR recommended providing more funding for gatherings of Young Friends and the hiring of a part-time Youth Secretary. These are the expensive recommendations and the annual budget will need to be increased by at least \$60-\$70,000. No one will be hired until financing for the first year is in place. Finance Committee has established a budget line for additional donations to support the implementation of these C'nR recommendations. Now we ask Friends to worshipfully consider whether they can allocate additional funds toward these special projects. Be sure to indicate that donations beyond what you would normally give to CYM are earmarked for the C'nR fund.

As of Yearly Meeting in August 2008, Home Mission and Advancement Committee (HMAC)

will be broadly responsible for religious education for Canadian Yearly Meeting. It will also be specifically charged with establishing a Quaker Education Program to help all of us learn more about our religious heritage, our structure, our practices and our Quaker spirituality. HMAC will hire a coordinator to help develop a comprehensive resource base and establish a visitation program. HMAC will no longer be responsible for publications or the web site. These will transfer to a new Publications and Communications Committee, which will work to develop our understanding and use of emerging new technologies that meet Friends' needs for communication and Quaker education. The Youth Program Coordinator for Yearly Meeting in session will be sought by CYM Nominating Committee and approved a year in advance. S/he will act for that year as an ex-officio member of both HMAC and Program Committee.

The first implementation task was to work with HMAC, the Religious Education Committee, and Nominating Committee to develop committee descriptions for the 2008 nominations package (sent out in January). These reflect new duties for HMAC, the laying down of the Religious Education committee, the establishment of a new Publications and Communications Committee, and a job description for the Yearly Meeting Youth Program Coordinator.

Canadian Young Friends Yearly Meeting has been asked to think about a job description for the part-time Youth Secretary for CYM and how CYM can support more gatherings of Young Friends. It is planned that Young Friends and others will meet during CYM in August to develop implementation proposals.

The implementation of some of the core C'nR recommendations will require substantial additional money, and we do not yet have a mechanism in place to raise the required funds. However, in May 2008, Representative Meeting appointed an ad hoc committee to prepare terms of reference for a revitalized fund raising committee, and to work with Representative Meeting's Nominating Committee to bring names for the committee to CYM in August.