

Questions and Concerns of the Canadian Yearly Meeting Treasurer

By Dan Poisson

December means a lot of different things to all of us. For some, it is a birthday; for others, it brings memories of someone dear who is no longer with us. It is also the month of Hanukkah and Christmas. And, in a small office on Fourth Avenue in Ottawa, it also means the end of another fiscal year. From that small office, hangs most of the life and activities of the Canadian Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Canada, for it is the office of Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM). It seems much too small to seat two persons, but Kerry MacAdam, our Office Administrator, and Suzette Wollinger, our Bookkeeper, work there. There are about 1,200 Friends in Canada, and I wonder how many of us know that Kerry and Suzette are not Quakers. I believe we may be the only religious organization in the world that entrusts its administration, data base, bookkeeping, banking and some investment decisions to non-members. Kerry and Suzette are great friends of Friends, to whom we all feel very grateful.

As CYM Friends' treasurer, I tried to contact a few Monthly Meeting's Treasurers via email, using a list I got from our former CYM Finance Committee Clerk, and the list at the end of the CYM 2002 Minutes. There are quite a few inaccuracies in both these lists. I believe it is important that Monthly Meeting Treasurers can communicate with the CYM Treasurer, and the other way around. So, fellow Treasurers, please send your current contact informa-

tion (including email address, if you have one) to me at: <danpoisson@yahoo.ca>. If you don't use email, please send it to me by regular mail at: Dan Poisson 685 Queen Street, Newmarket, On. L3Y 2J1.

FRIENDS, LET'S COMMUNICATE ABOUT THIS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

On another subject, Yonge Street Monthly Meeting owns its meetinghouse, which is a classified historical site. Its insurance policy was up for renewal in November, and this new policy shows a 73% cost increase from last year. I've heard similar stories of huge insurance premium increases after 11th September 2001 events in the United States. Did your Meeting experience the same type of increase? Monthly Meetings in Canada deal individually with insurance companies, though in England, for instance, the Yearly Meeting holds all rights, property titles and such, and negotiates a "bulk" insurance policy premium. I don't know about Yearly Meetings in the United States. Friends, let's communicate about this and other financial matters; 1,200 brains are so much better than just one. Your input and ideas are very welcome. □

Dan Poisson is a member of Yonge Street Monthly Meeting.

"FAITH IN ACTION: QUAKER SOCIAL TESTIMONY"

BY JONATHAN DALE AND OTHERS

We need to turn again and again to the Light of God's Spirit to show us both the present reality of our lives and new possibilities of living that are more in harmony with God's ways. The life of Jesus speaks to many about these, with his astonishing refusals of the temptations of wealth and power. In his identification with the poor and the excluded, in his warnings about wealth and possessions he shows us that faith is not separable from how we live.

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