



# Montreal Monthly Meeting Newsletter

## Infolettre de l'Assemblée quaker de Montréal

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## Life of the Meeting / La vie de l'assemblée

In November and December of 2025, Montreal Monthly Meeting continued our Quaker spiritual journey together. Our francophone group in Quebec surveyed their own needs for spiritual sustenance and have devised an original committee system to ensure those needs are met (more below). In Montreal, Tina and Sophie joined Genniffrey (formerly Geoffreyjen) in the First Day School effort, filling in for Jonah who has moved to Vancouver. Geoff led us in a thoughtful worship-sharing session about "Bearing Witness" after one meeting. We walked three sets of stairs up to the third floor at the Greene Centre a couple of times, as our usual meeting place was occupied by "worldly powers" and enjoyed the sunlight as well as the view. Finally a Quaker network originating in the U.S. joined us after meeting in December to explain the desperation of refugees in the U.S. who are facing cruelty and displacement in various forms. The question arises: can Canadians help? We enjoyed our polluck on December 14 and focused on the joys of the season together. With the closure of the Greene Centre on December 21 and 28, we continued First Day worship on Zoom. On December 27th, the Quebec Workshop group held a Christmas Meeting for Worship at Genniffrey's home. Genniffrey had scones, and mince tarts on offer as well as hot apple juice with rum.

The New Year was ushered in by renewed spirits and record attendance at the Greene Centre (over 35 worshippers on January 18)! Special attendees in January were Sarwar from Afghanistan via Indonesia, and Carla from the States, both refugees whose arrival we celebrated. Carla was welcomed from Florida to the Canadian border, then on to Toronto and Montreal, by Quakers.

Finally, here is a [link to a video](#) in which Jean-Louis addresses a group of Quakers gathered for a half-yearly meeting in Ontario, on October 25. In his talk, Jean-Louis gives his perspective of the founding of our francophone Quaker meeting. Since Jean-Louis was the founder, looking at the origin of this unique Quaker group is likely to inspire you.

### Francophone Work Teams

To meet the needs for organization at the group level, and to encourage involvement, three teams have started. Each team has specific responsibilities. The first will focus on activities related to social engagement, second on enrichment activities for our group or for the general public, and the third on Quaker education in French. This is something to keep an eye on as it unfolds. ....

### First Day School

With the arrival of Tina Rothchild and Sophie Cleff to the First Day School initiative, we have started to plan for upcoming sessions. With three of us it will be easier to manage the diverse ages of our cohort of children. Furthermore, both Tina and Sophie bring new skills to the initiative. Sophie is a music teacher, for example, and so we will be introducing more music into the mix, and we have plans to undertake more physically diverse activities to help channel exuberant energies. We would ask parents to be mindful that the Meeting now has three dedicated animators and to encourage your children to come and participate. More news to come!

En novembre et décembre 2025, l'assemblée mensuelle de Montréal a poursuivi son cheminement spirituel quaker. Notre groupe francophone du Québec a évalué ses propres besoins en matière de soutien spirituel et a mis au point un système de comités original pour répondre à ces besoins (plus d'informations ci-dessous). À Montréal, Tina et Sophie ont rejoint Genniffrey (anciennement Geoffreyjen) dans le cadre de l'initiative First Day School, remplaçant Jonah qui a déménagé à Vancouver. Geoff nous a guidés dans une session de partage de culte réfléchi sur le thème « Témoigner » après une assemblée. Nous avons gravi trois fois les escaliers menant au troisième étage du Greene Centre, car notre lieu de assemblée habituel était occupé par les « pouvoirs mondiaux », et nous avons profité du soleil et de la vue. Enfin, un réseau quaker originaire des États-Unis s'est joint à nous après une assemblée en décembre pour expliquer le désespoir des réfugiés aux États-Unis qui sont confrontés à diverses formes de cruauté et de déplacement. La question se pose : les Canadiens peuvent-ils aider ? Nous avons apprécié notre repas-partage le 14 décembre et nous nous sommes concentrés sur les joies de la saison ensemble. Avec la fermeture du Greene Centre les 21 et 28 décembre, nous avons continué le culte du premier jour sur Zoom. Le 27 décembre dernier, le groupe de Québec a tenu une rencontre pour Noël chez Genniffrey. Pour l'occasion, Genniffrey avait préparé des scones, des tartelettes aux fruits confits et du jus de pomme chaud au rhum.

La nouvelle année a été accueillie avec un regain d'enthousiasme et une foule record au Centre Greene (plus de 30 personnes le 18 janvier) ! Parmi les participants spéciaux du mois de janvier figuraient Sarwar, originaire d'Afghanistan et passé par l'Indonésie, et Carla, originaire des États-Unis, tous deux réfugiés dont nous célébrons l'arrivée. Carla a été accueillie de Floride à la frontière canadienne, puis à Toronto et à Montréal, par des quakers.

Enfin, voici un [lien vers une vidéo](#) dans laquelle Jean-Louis s'adresse à un groupe de Quakers réunis pour une réunion semestrielle en Ontario, le 25 octobre. Dans son discours, Jean-Louis donne son point de vue sur la fondation de notre réseau francophone du Québec. Étant donné que Jean-Louis en est le fondateur, les témoignages quakers de ce groupe unique en son genre ne manquera pas de vous inspirer.

### Équipes de travail francophones

Afin de pallier à un manque d'organisation au niveau des activités du groupe, de son implication et de sa visibilité, trois équipes de travail ont été formées, chacune ayant ses propres responsabilités. Une première travaillera sur l'organisation d'activités d'implication sociale, une autre sur l'organisation d'activités d'animation du groupe ou grand public et une autre sur la formation en français. À suivre. ....

### École du premier jour

Avec l'arrivée de Tina Rothchild et Sophie Cleff au sein de l'initiative École du premier jour, nous avons commencé à planifier les prochaines sessions. À trois, il sera plus facile de gérer les différents âges de notre groupe d'enfants. De plus, Tina et Sophie apportent toutes deux de nouvelles compétences à l'initiative. Sophie est professeure de musique, par exemple, et nous allons donc introduire davantage de musique dans le programme. Nous prévoyons également d'organiser des activités plus variées sur le plan physique afin d'aider les enfants à canaliser leur énergie débordante. Nous demandons aux parents de garder à l'esprit que la assemblée compte désormais trois animateurs dévoués et d'encourager leurs enfants à venir y participer. D'autres nouvelles suivront !

## Time to Learn / Formations

### Upcoming Courses in English:

<https://pendlehill.org/learn/resources/>

### Ongoing workshops and lectures in English:

<https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/our-courses/>

### Cours en anglais:

<https://pendlehill.org/learn/resources/>

<https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/our-courses/>

### Quelques ressources en français:

<https://quakersnantes.org/ressources-diverses-en-francais/>

## Quakers at Large

## En général

### A Blessed Weekend with Quaker Earthcare Witness

By Geoff Garver

The Quaker testimonies of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality and sustainability (or stewardship) are at the heart of Quaker faith and practice. Quakers came together around the newest of these, sustainability, in the 1980s and 1990s, with Canadian Friends affirming "unity with creation" as a testimony in 1992. Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) is the main network of North American Friends who feel a strong calling to give life to this testimony and to "live in right relationship with all Creation, recognizing that as the entire world is interconnected and is a manifestation of God," as [the QEW vision statement](#) states.

On the long weekend of October 16-19, QEW held its Fall gathering at Powell House, a Quaker conference and retreat centre in the rolling hills of Old Chatham, New York, near Albany. I was idly thinking I gave one of the keynote talks. The talk I gave was entitled "Imagine a world made entirely of Territories of Life." I talked about the strong connection I have to the land where I grew up in rural Western New York and asked the Friends who had gathered to reflect on how a special place in their life nourishes their Spirit. I then explained my vision of a world made up of territories of life and asked how we can imagine communities coming together and becoming empowered to work toward that vision. You can read about the QEW Fall gathering in the [latest edition of QEW's newsletter](#), [Befriending Creation](#), or [here](#), and you can watch a video of [my talk here](#).

The weekend was a blessing! I drove down from Montreal on Friday through vivid Fall colors and enjoyed them again on a morning walk around Powell House's beautiful grounds on Saturday before heading home. I reconnected with many Friends I've known for many years through my engagements with Earthcare. And, on Saturday, before giving my talk, I joined many of the other Friends at the gathering to participate in the No Kings demonstration in Albany. It was sheer joy to be surrounded by people of all ages and walks of life seeking truth, justice and Earthcare in these troubled times.

### The World's Homeless

By Wendy Sturton

Those unfortunate who knock on our country's door and beg for asylum take their place in our minds and hearts. We imagine them living in crowded camps around the world, trekking across deserts and embarking on dangerous sea voyages. Hiding in the wheel wells of planes, or in airless containers, perching perilously in overcrowded boats in the Mediterranean, prey to the slightest wind.

In particular, refugees from the US are hoping to come to Canada, but are impeded by stricter rules and the concept of "Safe Third Country" in our immigration laws. The concept denies the right of a refugee hearing to anyone passing through or fleeing a country deemed "safe". At the time the concept was introduced into Canadian law, the United States in particular was identified as a Safe Third Country. Now, with racial groups being specifically targeted and even those with papers or on track to become American citizens being incarcerated and deported, it is impossible to see the U.S. as a Safe Third Country. Many trans people with American citizenship as well feel unsafe in the U.S. and face the same problem as they seek shelter in Canada.

### Dear helpers,

**Myname is \*\*\*\*\*. I'm eighteen years old and I'm from Haiti. Two years ago I was able to come to the United States under the humanitarian parole program as Haiti was going through a very difficult situation with the gangs taking over a large part of the country as I'm speaking today things are even worse, the gang members became 10 times more dangerous. Back then in Haiti I used to live at Tabaree where all activities were shut down completely for a long time such as schools, businesses, churches and other activity sectors because of the gangs. As a young kid I was not able to go to school for months, kidnapping and killing and gun shots was what I used to hear on a daily basis in Haiti. This situation got me deeply depressed and stressed as I was afraid of being killed by a random gun shot like many other people who got killed inside of their house by random gun shots. Fear, depression and stress was what I used to live as a kid in my country. When I came to America I was finally relieved and was able to sleep with peace with no fear of being killed or kidnapped by the gangs. This year I was able to graduate from high school which I wouldn't been able to do in my country. Being in America I had a future ...but since President Trump took power everything changed he ended temporary protection status (TPS) for people from Haiti over the last year I have been able to pursue my dream studying and work to build a future. Now I'm obliged to stay inside where I live in a small place with many other people because I'm scared of being picked by ICE agents if this happens I will eventually be sent back to Haiti as my TPS will be ended in the beginning of the next year. I'm very scared to go back to Haiti where there's no hope for me as a young man...I'm so scared to go back to Haiti and I'm desperately seeking for some help and assistance...In the name of god please help me.**

A network of American and Canadian Quakers with particular concern for such about-to-be-displaced people does good work with those who have a chance at being admitted to Canada as refugees. New attendee Carla benefited from the work of this group and a few Montreal Quakers participated in the process, helping her understand the legal requirements to claim refugee status at the border, to gather and fill out papers, and to relay her step by step from the southern U.S. to the Canadian border and on to Montreal. There are likely to be more asylum seekers to follow. Please consider whether you might get involved and let us know by writing to the Newsletter email address [news-let@montreal.quaker.ca](mailto:news-let@montreal.quaker.ca)

### Letter from the Quaker Assembly of France

Here is the [link](#) to the most recent Letter from the Quaker Assembly of France

Summary of the issue (in French)

Assemblée annuelle - Kevin Caussou  
Centre de solidarité quaker à Calais - Missy Lane  
La rencontre transfrontalière - C. Flatt  
Nouveaux Amis résidents à Congénies - Amy Cooke  
Nouvelles des groupes  
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Le CQI de l'avenue Mozart dans les années 1950 - Clotilde Druelle  
Le long chemin vers la révision de Expérience et Pratique - Kris Misselbrook

### An Exercise in Quaker Discernment

By Gilles Harvey

Yesterday, I had the joy of participating in a Meeting for Business of the group formerly known as "Les amis isolés", under the care of the Quaker Assembly of France. We were about ten Friends, joining from different regions of France, along with one Friend from Quebec — myself.

As is our practice, the Meeting began with a period of worshipful silence of about 5 or 6 minutes, allowing each of us to center down. Then the clerk presented the agenda. One item raised a delicate question: should we consider changing the name of the group?

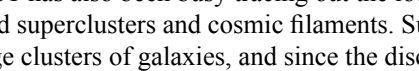
The term "Isolated Friends" seemed to carry a negative connotation. The isolation it suggested did not reflect our lived experience, as we feel fully part of a vibrant community, participating together through technology. The idea was to find a name that better expressed this sense of belonging, beyond geographical distance.

After the proposal was presented, we returned to silence, seeking the guidance of the Spirit. Then, one by one, Friends shared their reflections. Each spoken ministry was followed by a brief pause, allowing space for the words to settle.

Several suggestions arose: "Disconnected Friends," "Linked Friends," "Connected Friends," and "Interconnected Friends." What struck me was that no idea was rejected or criticized. Each Friend simply explained the reasons that led them to prefer one name over another.

As the sharing continued, a sense of unity emerged around the name "Connected Friends." This was accepted with joy, as it carries a threefold meaning: technological, pointing to the tools that link us; social, highlighting the bonds of fellowship; and spiritual, reminding us that we are connected to one another in the Light.

It was a beautiful experience of listening, discernment, and collective decision-making — a living testimony to the Quaker way of seeking truth together under the guidance of the Spirit.

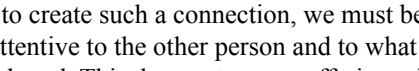


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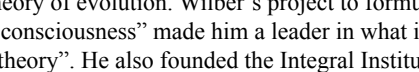


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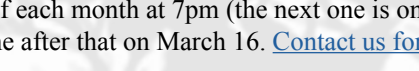


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### Un week-end béni avec Quaker Earthcare Witness

par Geoff Garver

Les témoignages de simplicité, de paix, d'intégrité, de communauté, d'égalité et d'éco responsabilité sont au cœur de la foi et de la pratique quaker. Les quakers se sont rassemblés autour du plus récent d'entre eux, l'éco responsabilité, dans les années 1980 et 1990, les Amis canadiens affirmant « l'unité avec la création » comme témoignage en 1992. Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) est le principal réseau d'Amis nord-américains qui se sentent fortement appelés à donner vie à ce témoignage et à « vivre en bonne relation avec toute la création, en reconnaissant que le monde entier est interconnecté et est une manifestation de Dieu », comme le stipule [la vision de QEW](#).

Pendant le long week-end du 16 au 19 octobre, QEW a tenu son rassemblement d'automne à Powell House, un centre de conférence et de retraite quaker situé dans les collines vallonnées d'Old Chatham, dans l'État de New York, près d'Albany. J'ai eu le plaisir de prononcer l'un des deux discours liminaires. Mon discours s'intitulait « Imaginez un monde entièrement composé de territoires de vie ». J'ai parlé du lien fort qui m'unait à la terre où j'ai grandi, dans la campagne de l'ouest de l'État de New York, et j'ai demandé aux Amis réunis de réfléchir à la manière dont un lieu particulier dans leur vie nourrit leur esprit. J'ai ensuite expliqué ma vision d'un monde composé de territoires de vie et demandé comment nous pouvions imaginer des communautés, se rassembler et se donner les moyens d'œuvrer à la réalisation de cette vision. Vous pouvez en savoir plus sur le rassemblement d'automne du QEW dans [la dernière édition du bulletin d'information du QEW](#), [Befriending Creation](#), ou [ici](#), et vous pouvez regarder une vidéo de [mon discours ici](#).

Ce week-end a été une bénédiction ! Je suis parti de Montréal vendredi en voiture, traversant des paysages aux couleurs automnales éclatantes, qui j'ai pu admirer à nouveau dimanche matin lors d'une promenade dans le magnifique parc de Powell House, avant de rentrer chez moi. J'ai renouvelé avec de nombreux amis que je connais depuis des années grâce à mon engagement auprès d'Earthcare. Et samedi, avant de donner ma conférence, j'ai rejoint plusieurs autres amis présents au rassemblement pour participer à la manifestation No Kings à Albany. Ce fut une joie immense d'être entouré de personnes de tous âges et de tous horizons en quête de vérité, de justice et de protection de la Terre en ces temps troublés.

### Les sans-abri dans le monde

Par Wendy Sturton

Ces malheureux qui frappent à la porte de notre pays et implorent l'aide occupent nos pensées et nos cœurs. Nous les imaginons vivant dans des camps surpeuplés à travers le monde, traversant des déserts à pied et se lançant dans de dangereux voyages en mer. Ils se cachent dans les roues des avions ou dans des conteneurs flottants, s'accrochant désespérément à des bateaux surchargés en Méditerranée, à la merci du moindre souffle de vent.

Les réfugiés américains, en particulier, espèrent venir au Canada, mais sont freinés par des règles plus strictes et par le concept de « pays tiers sûr » inscrit dans nos lois sur l'immigration. Ce concept refuse le droit à une audience de réfugié à toute personne transitant par ou fuyant un pays considéré comme « sûr ». Au moment où ce concept a été introduit dans la législation canadienne, les États-Unis, en particulier, ont été identifiés comme un pays tiers sûr. Aujourd'hui, alors que des groupes raciaux sont spécifiquement visés et que même ceux qui ont des papiers ou sont en passe de devenir citoyens américains sont incarcérés et expulsés, il est impossible de considérer les États-Unis comme un pays tiers sûr. De nombreuses personnes transgenres ayant la citoyenneté américaine se sentent également en danger aux États-Unis et sont confrontées au même problème lorsqu'elles cherchent refuge au Canada.

Pour avoir un aperçu du désespoir que ressentent beaucoup de gens, lisez ci-dessous la lettre d'un jeune réfugié qui implore de l'aide. Il avait commencé à se construire une vie aux États-Unis en pensant qu'il avait été accepté dans la société américaine.

### Chers bénévoles,

Je m'appelle \*\*\*\*\*, j'ai dix-huit ans et je viens d'Haiti. Il y a deux ans, j'ai pu venir aux États-Unis dans le cadre du programme de libération conditionnelle humanitaire, car Haiti traversait une situation très difficile, avec des gangs qui contrôlaient une grande partie du pays. Aujourd'hui, la situation est encore pire, les membres des gangs sont devenus dix fois plus dangereux. À l'époque, en Haiti, je vivais à Tabaree, où toutes les activités étaient complètement paralysées depuis les émeutes, notamment les écoles, les entreprises, les églises et d'autres secteurs d'activité, à cause des gangs. En tant que jeune enfant, je n'ai pas pu aller à l'école pendant des mois. Les enlèvements, les meurtres et les coups de feu quotidiens faisaient partie de mon quotidien en Haiti. Cette situation m'a profondément déprimé et stressé, car je n'ai jamais pu d'être tué par un coup de feu aléatoire, comme beaucoup d'autres personnes qui ont été tuées chez elles par des coups de feu aléatoires. La peur, la pression et le stress étaient mon quotidien de tous les jours. J'étais en danger de ma vie. Lorsque j'ai pu aller en Amérique, j'ai enfin été soulagé et j'ai pu dormir en paix sans crainte d'être tué ou kidnappé par les gangs. Cette année, j'ai pu obtenir mon diplôme d'études secondaires, ce que je n'aurais pas pu faire dans mon pays. En Amérique, j'ai trouvé la paix et j'espérais pouvoir étudier et avoir un avenir... mais depuis que le président Trump a pris le pouvoir, tout a changé. Il n'y a plus de protection pour les personnes d'origine haïtienne et depuis, je ne peux plus poursuivre mon rêve d'étudier et de travailler pour me construire un avenir. Je suis désormais obligé de rester chez moi, dans un petit logement que je partage avec des amis d'autres personnes, car j'ai peur d'être arrêté par les agents de l'ICE. Si cela arrive, j'ai serai renvoyé en Haiti, car mon TPS prendra fin au début de l'année prochaine. J'ai très peur de retourner en Haiti, où il n'y a aucun espoir pour moi en tant que jeune homme... J'ai tellement peur de retourner en Haiti que je cherche désespérément de l'aide et du soutien... Au nom de Dieu, aidez-moi, moi et tous ceux qui...

Un réseau de quakers américains et canadiens particulièrement préoccupés par le sort de ces personnes sur le point d'être déplacées fait un excellent travail auprès de celles qui ont une chance d'être admises au Canada en tant que réfugiées. Carla, une nouvelle participante, a bénéficié du travail de ce groupe et quelques quakers de Montréal ont participé au processus. D'autres pourraient aussi. Veuillez réfléchir à la possibilité de nous aider et nous faire part de votre décision en écrivant à l'adresse électronique du bulletin d'information [newslet@montreal.quaker.ca](mailto:newslet@montreal.quaker.ca)

### Lettre des Amis des quakers de France

Voici le [lien](#) vers la dernière parution de la Lettre des Amis des quakers de France.

### Au sommaire:

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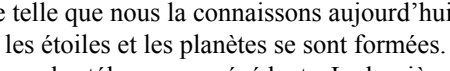


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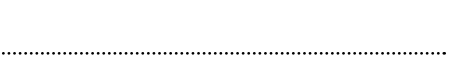


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It was a beautiful experience of listening, discernment, and collective decision-making — a living testimony to the Quaker way of seeking truth together under the guidance of the Spirit.

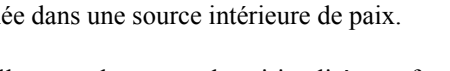


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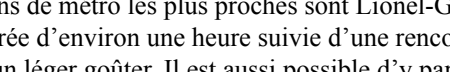


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