

QIAP ANNUAL REPORT & APPEAL 2004



*"I pin my hopes to quiet processes
and small circles, in which vital and
transforming events take place..."*

Rufus Jones, 1937

Photos courtesy of:

N. McKee & P. Bennett, IDRC

Tania Tang, WTO

frogs graphic design



QIAP: A Short History

A 1998 Ottawa seminar brought together Friends (Quakers) from meetings across Canada, along with representatives from Quaker agencies around the world, to discern ways to work more effectively, both in Canada and internationally, on issues of shared concern. The group identified the need for an official Quaker presence in Ottawa to assist Canadian Friends and international agencies to engage in constructive dialogue with policy-makers and to empower those affected by policy decisions to become more effectively engaged in the process. After three years of discernment and planning, the Quaker International Affairs Programme (QIAP) was established in November 2001.

Our vision was a new programme that would serve to build bridges, facilitate dialogue on contentious international issues and build on the strengths of being both Canadian and Quaker. Since the 18th century Quakers have sought to “speak truth to power.” It is a non-violent way of addressing violent situations. Because multilateral decisions and actions affect everyone, as well as life itself on this planet, our emphasis is on inclusion, rather than just addressing those in power.

“QIAP uses off-the-record dialogue as an opportunity for those without power to ‘speak truth to power’ in order to promote equality, justice, right sharing of the world’s resources and prevention of conflict.”

Carol Dixon, Clerk, QIAP Committee.



How We Work: QIAP'S Unique Process

Quakers have a long tradition of providing opportunities for people to meet on an equal footing. Informal and off-the-record dialogue, away from the pressures of public life, allow participants to come together to discuss difficult, controversial or sensitive issues with equal weight and importance. QIAP does not advocate specific positions. This enables different voices and perspectives from all sides to be heard in a confidential and trusting manner and for contentious issues to move forward.

QIAP, working in collaboration with The Quaker United Nations Office (QUONO) in Geneva, facilitates people-to-people diplomacy by:

- Listening to concerns, in the light of Quaker commitment to equality, peace, justice and sustainable living
- Planning and hosting informal off-the-record dialogues and seminars that address these concerns
- Utilizing a specialist consultant and a group of experts
- Providing technical and non-technical resource materials (e.g. Issue papers, Briefing Papers, etc)

"I have really appreciated QIAP's approach of bringing people together in an informal and non-confrontational setting so that they can discuss issues of common interest."

Canadian Government Official





QIAP works with:

- The world-wide network of Quaker agencies
- Government officials & diplomats (in Canada and internationally)
- Intergovernmental officials (e.g. UN)
- Non-Governmental & Faith-based Organizations
- Marginalized groups directly affected by an issue or conflict (e.g. Indigenous Peoples)
- Academics and experts

"The papers supported by QIAP on TRIPs issues, such as the paper from David Vivas-Eugui, are very useful research tools and policy documents. They help clarify the issues at stake for developing countries."

Senior Researcher, The North-South Institute





Why are we working on patents and trade issues?

Imagine that you are a diplomat from a poor country and have been sent to engage in all of the various international negotiations in Geneva. You are deeply concerned about the negotiations around patenting and what the patenting of genetic materials will mean for the farmers at home. Your time is constrained, you really don't understand all the issues and your country is under intense pressure to agree to a proposal put forward by a few major developed countries with multinational seed companies...

Imagine that you are a government employee, who has just been given a new mandate to add to your already over-full portfolio. You have six weeks to make recommendations on how your government should respond to higher patent standards proposed in a new regional trade agreement. This is out of your area of expertise...

Imagine that you are an Aboriginal traditional healer. Researchers have been coming to your community, scooping up plants and asking questions about the plants you use for sacred and medicinal purposes. You have heard some people say that these people plan on using your knowledge, that has been passed from generation-to-generation, and patenting these plants. Your entire community is concerned...

What do all of these "imagined" stories have in common? Each of them gives a very concrete illustration of how the new rules being negotiated on patents, copyrights, trademarks and other so-called "intellectual property rights" affect Quaker concerns with regard to equality, justice, conflict prevention and the environment. Today these rules are being negotiated in a number of different international bodies. Imbalances between the negotiating parties and unjust negotiating processes are not only a source of tension in international economic relations, but are sowing the seeds of inequitable





outcomes and future conflict. Our work contributes to creating greater justice in negotiations by:

- Promoting greater dialogue between developed and developing countries
- Supporting the capacity of developing country government to negotiate on intellectual property issues
- Producing publications to better inform negotiators and others
- Co-operating with other organizations as needed

"From medicines to food to knowledge itself 'intellectual property' is becoming a key ingredient in deciding who has access to what and at what cost."

*Geoff Tansey, QUNO Geneva TRIPS consultant, Co-author
The Food system – A guide, member and director of The
Food Ethics Council, UK.*





Programme Highlights 2002 – 2004

- QIAP has held 7 workshops and dialogues in Ottawa, Miami (USA), Cancun (Mexico) and in Geneva (with QUNO Geneva) on a range of trade and intellectual property rights issues.
- QIAP & QUNO Geneva assisted developing country TRIPS Council negotiators at the WTO Ministerial Meeting in Cancun, Mexico in September 2003 by making legal/technical experts available for consultation.
- QIAP & QUNO Geneva jointly published 3 issue papers that are highly technical and geared towards policy-makers and negotiators working on these issues across a range of government ministries as well as those groups and agencies with a special interest.
- In order to raise awareness about the importance of this work, QIAP and QUNO have also jointly published a briefing paper for Friends titled *Patents and Quaker Action* explaining why we are working on intellectual property issues and our unique methodology. We have also published a series of 3 briefing papers for the wider public on: *Patents and Health*, *Patents and Food* and *Patents and Development*.
- In the fall of 2003, QIAP officially launched its website at <http://www.qiap.ca> where more information on workshops, seminars and publications can be found.
- QIAP underwent an independent evaluation on certain aspects of the programme to assist in assessing QIAP's development to date and enhancing our future directions.

"QIAP's off-the-record dialogues are a valuable addition to the discussion of intellectual property rights in Canada."

Inter Pares



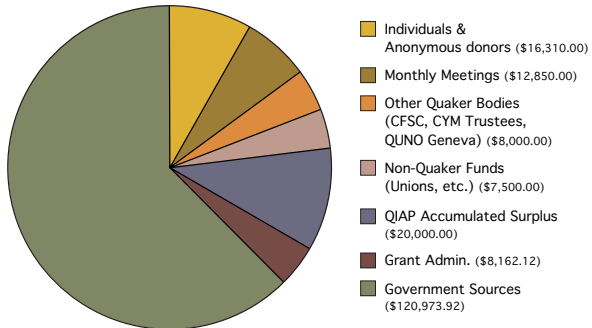
Financial Report

QIAP is funded by Canadian Quakers, groups and individuals and by grants from foundations and governments for specific projects.

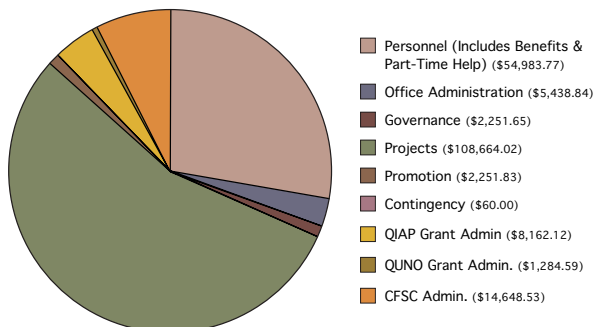
QIAP has one full-time staff person and a committee of 10 (4 members and 6 associate members) who donate their time in-kind. Committee members are appointed by Canadian Yearly Meeting and are nominated by Ottawa Monthly Meeting and the Canadian Friends Service Committee.

Because of the unique nature of its work, QIAP is heavily reliant on in-kind support and donations. To fulfill our workplan for 2004-5, QIAP must raise **\$46,400** in undesignated donations. **To give, please see the form at the back.**

Income \$193,796.04



Expenses \$197,745.36





QIAP's Supporters

Over the past two years QIAP has received in-kind and financial support from many sources. We are truly grateful and would like to extend our sincerest thanks to all who have supported our work.

Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC)

Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM) Trustees

Donald Berman Foundation

Edmonton Monthly Meeting

Halifax Monthly Meeting

International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

Kitchener Area Monthly Meeting

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Ottawa Monthly Meeting

Quaker International Affairs Programme Committee

Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) Geneva

Rose Mae and Peter Harkness

Toronto Monthly Meeting

Vancouver Monthly Meeting

Vernon Monthly Meeting

Victoria Monthly Meeting

Wolfville Monthly Meeting

How to Give

QIAP relies on donations from Canadian Quakers, partner organizations and individuals who recognize the value of this work and wish to see its continued development. Please consider adding QIAP to the initiatives that you support.

YES, I support the Quaker International Affairs Programme:

The important work of QIAP is made possible with the support of donors such as yourself.

Name: _____

Address: _____



*All donations are tax deductible.
Receipts will be issued for all donations greater than \$10.*

Option 1: Cheque or Money Order

Please make cheques Payable to Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC) **noting QIAP as your designation at the bottom:**

I/We would like to contribute to CFSC the following amount to be used towards the Quaker International Affairs Programme:

\$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$35 Other \$ _____

Option 2: Sustaining Donor

I/We hereby authorize the Canadian Friends Service Committee to debit my/our account in the amount of:

\$ _____ on the first day of every month
beginning (month) _____ 20 ____ for the

Quaker International Affairs Programme.

Signature

My Account Number

Please enclose an unsigned, voided cheque

QIAP is a project of the Canadian Friends Service Committee and donations can be sent directly to: CFSC, 60 Lowther Street, Toronto, ON M5R 1C7 Tel: (416) 920-5213

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