



OUR CURRENT FOCUS

In its first mandate, QIAP is working, in collaboration with QUNO Geneva, to achieve greater equity and justice in the negotiating process regarding the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

TRIPS is promoted by supporters as necessary to protect research and development work in areas such as pharmaceuticals and agricultural products. However, people in many developing countries and many Canadians believe that, depending on how the agreement is interpreted and implemented, it will undermine the ability of nation states to safeguard their food supply, health services, biological diversity and traditional knowledge.

International agreements are being negotiated that will shape the future of all who share this planet. The work and approach of QIAP represents an opportunity to help ensure that a wider range of voices are heard in making these critical decisions.



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 out 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



Quaker International Affairs Programme

97 Powell Avenue, Ottawa,
Ontario Canada K1S 2A2

Telephone: 613.231.7311

Fax: 416.231.7290

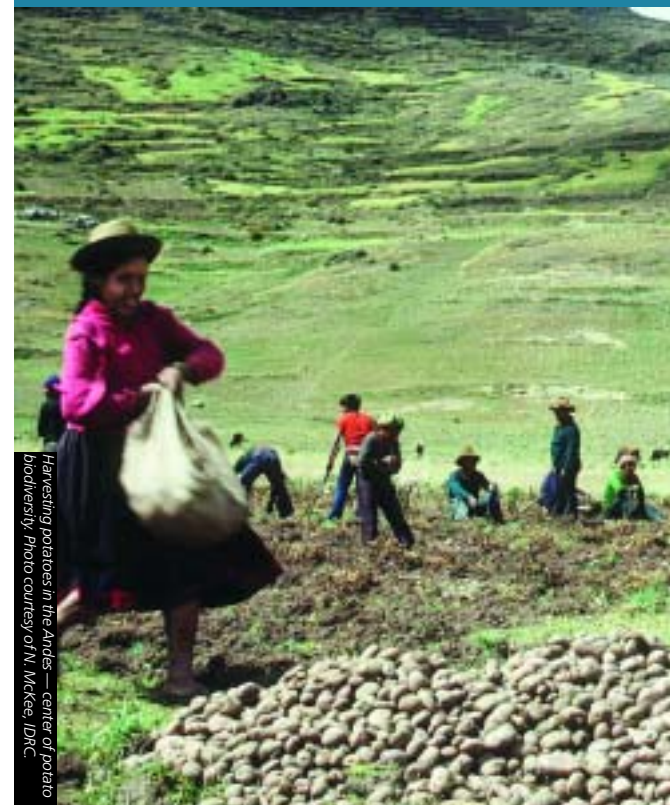
website: <http://www.qiap.ca>

email: qiap@quaker.ca

Design by newburyng www.newburyng.com



Quaker International Affairs Programme



Harvesting potatoes in the Andes — center of potato biodiversity. Photo courtesy of N. McKee / IIRC.

“Peacemaking involves more than national and military security; it involves economic and cultural security, and respect for human rights. Peace is a human condition of accommodation and opportunity.”

*Stephen Collett,
former Quaker UN representative*



QUAKERS AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

For 350 years the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) have undertaken to bring a witness for justice and peace to areas of oppression and violence.

Quakers believe that in each and every individual there is a potential for creative engagement that can lead to new understandings, accommodation and more equitable relationships.

Since 1948, Quakers have brought their witness for justice and peace to international issues at the United Nations in Geneva and New York through the Quaker United Nations Offices (QUNO).

Canadian Quakers have expanded their witness for justice and peace at the international level with the launch of the Quaker International Affairs Programme (QIAP) in Ottawa in November 2001.



TRIPS work logo, frogs graphic design



QUAKER INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS PROGRAMME

QIAP works to support the peace and justice concerns of Quakers in Canada by using the QUNO methodology of off-the-record dialogue.

It is a programme under the Canadian Friends Service Committee which is the service arm of Canadian Yearly Meeting (Quakers).

QIAP's work priorities are based on the concerns of Canadian Quakers and determined, in part, by the agendas of the organizations and participants with which QIAP works.

In collaboration with QUNO Geneva, QIAP's first area of focus is on genetic resources and intellectual property issues.



WAYS OF WORKING

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

Rufus Jones, 1937.

Quaker process is not about dictating solutions, but facilitating a search for solutions by all people affected by the problem. It recognizes that negotiations are more likely to be effective where there is mutual respect, equality of resources and access to information. International negotiations are sometimes in need of such a perspective. Profound inequalities between and within nations mean that many voices are not being heard at the international level.

It has been the Quaker experience that informal, off-the-record, dialogue in a quiet meeting place, detached from political pressures and publicity, can allow discussion of difficult, controversial or sensitive issues on an equal footing. Central to the work of QIAP is the sharing of information and promoting genuine dialogue about controversial issues among negotiators, diplomats, policy-makers, Indigenous Peoples, nongovernmental organizations and others.

QIAP facilitates people-to-people diplomacy by:

- » organizing meetings and seminars aimed at building trust, sharing information and promoting dialogue
- » attending relevant multilateral meetings to promote fair process both inside and outside the meetings
- » preparing information materials for stakeholders and the public on major issues of concern
- » collaborating with the world-wide network of Quaker agencies

World Trade Organization, Geneva, Switzerland
Photo courtesy of Tania Tang, WTO

