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**June 15** *Father's Day* Carlos Gomes will lead us in a talking circle about fathers. Tony Fitzgerald will be the service leader. There will be a cleansing smudge conducted outside prior to the start of the service. People who wish to partake in the smudge should be at the Fellowship no later than ten minutes before the normal start of the service at eleven.

**June 22** Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes will speak on "*Putting the Beat Back into Beatitudes: Transcendentalists and Other Rebel Poets.*"

The 2008 AGM will be held following the service.

**June 29** Investiture of the new board and committee chairs. End of season picnic.



## Sunday Services

**June 1** *The RAVE Project: Religion and Domestic Violence* Cathy Holtmann will speak with Lorna Drew as service leader.

The Religion and Violence eLearning Project is the result of over 15 years of social science research into the issues of religion and domestic violence. We believe that every woman, man, teen and child that looks to their faith community for assistance in the aftermath of abuse deserves help that is compassionate, practical, based on information that is accurate and where safety is a top priority. We believe that churches can partner with community organizations and agencies in responding to abuse. This presentation will give an introduction to the RAVE Project methods and resources.

**June 8** *Rwanda - Community engagement, Leadership and Action* Laura Maynard will be talking about her time in Rwanda as a Coady International Institute Youth Intern (a program funded by the Canadian International Development Agency). As well as the current situation in Rwanda and the efforts being made in Rwanda, by Rwandans, to improve their communities and further the development of their country.



The AGM for the UFF will be held June 22 following the Service

We are looking forward to seeing you at the 2008 Annual General Meeting. All members should make every effort to attend since a quorum is vital to the functioning of the Fellowship.



## Report of Finance and Facilities I

April 20, 2008

Buz Barsby was contacted about the \$1000.00 donation he has given in memory of his late wife Margaret Warren. He would like the monies to be used for tuning the upstairs piano once each year. Historically, Margaret Fitzgerald has it tuned each fall. At this time the \$1000. would probably attract yearly interest of \$45.00. Tuning is about \$115.00 per year. Buz has given us permission to replace the watering can with the special nozzle that attaches to the humidifier in the piano at this time - the cost is about \$35.00. . Buz would like the interest along with some of the principal used each year. Buz says he will top up the fund when it gets low, and as well Margaret's three

children plan to contribute to this fund in the future in memory of their mother.

Kerry Appleton, Canadian Red Cross representative from Saint John, came to the fellowship last week to see if it would be a suitable shelter if there is flooding this spring. She loved our fellowship building I have a contract signed by Kerry Appleton for emergency shelter use by the Red Cross that would be in effect for one year. If the board agrees, we will sign it and return it to Kerry. She feels the best use for our facility would be as a shelter for a family with a special needs member. If and when our fellowship is used as a shelter, the Red Cross would have a staff person at the fellowship at all times.

The Canada Revenue Agency's 'Registered Charities Seminar' was held on March 26th at the Fredericton Public Library. Two members of the fellowship were in attendance. It was excellent evening of information about filing tax returns and about allowable expenses given in a clear and concise manner. I have a CD that I will give to the Treasurer Allan Walls entitled 'Registered Charity Information Return T3010A - Annotated Forms'. Please see the information below.

*Respectfully submitted*  
Vice President Finance & Facilities  
Patricia desChamps

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Subject: Free Information Session for Charities

Are you a Director, Bookkeeper or Board Member for a Registered Charity?

Registered charities may lose their charitable status if they do not file their Registered Charities Information Return (T3010A). Directors and officers are responsible for ensuring these forms are completed accurately and filed on time.

You are invited to attend a free information session to learn how completing this return helps charitable organizations retain their charitable status, be accountable to the public and increase their profile with donors and volunteers.



## Buildings and Grounds Report I

April 20th, 2008

I have talked to Peter Woodworth at the Water Department, City of Fredericton.

He said that our water meter read:

\$62.20 on July 30th, 2007  
\$214.00 on Oct 30th 2007  
\$108.40 on Feb 7th, 2008

The city reads our water meter every 90 days. They went

last Friday as a special favour (it's day 71) and the reading was \$80.50. We should expect our bill to be about 25% more that \$80.50 at the 'regular' reading date which should make the bill approx. the same as our Feb 7th bill. After much discussion about possible ways we can reduce our water bill, Peter suggested that we check the overflow hose on each of our three toilets. It should be at least one inch above the water level in the tank. Peter says that if the overflow hose is too low it wastes a lot of water. It will be checked on Monday.

The new hardwood floor upstairs is finished. The upstairs landing and hallway were given a fresh coat of paint that is very near in colour to what was already on the walls. The walls were dirty and there were a few marks in the paint that wouldn't wash out. A Mary Hachey framed watercolour on the south wall of the upstairs landing was repaired. The glass was broken. Joy of Framing put in a new piece of glass - the bill was a bit over \$55. The brass railing up the stairs and on the landing was cleaned. Michel refurbished and added cushioned feet to the antique green chairs. They are now on the landing.

After each storm Michel shoveled and used salt when it was necessary after the ploughing was done. This kept our wheelchair ramp and entries clear at least from Monday to Friday. I notice the new concrete step/slab that was put in about five years ago at our main door is really deteriorating - it's flaking away at the edges. We may need to do so sort of repair work to the step/slab.

Our new drainage ditch is working so well. The water from melting snow is coming down the hillside to the driveway on the south side of the house. When it reaches the driveway the run-off goes to the east and down the ditch between the fellowship and the Stevenson's property. Our basement is dry so far this spring. Yeah!

Malcolm Miller Theatre has decided to perform the George Orwell play 'Animal Farm' on Friday May 9th at 7pm at the Stepping Stone Centre and in the Sanctuary of the fellowship on Saturday May 10th at 7pm. There will be discussion and coffee/tea and sweets served after the play. We won't proceed with planning a stage at this time.

*Respectfully submitted*  
Patricia desChamps  
Chair, Buildings and Grounds



## Thursday Discussion Group on Global Warming

May 1, 2008.

I want to report on April's "first Thursday" meeting and potluck with Carl Duivenvoorden. I am grateful to Carl for coming once again to the Fellowship and informing us of how we can help to heal our planet earth. I know many

of you wanted to be at the meeting but were unable to attend due to other commitments. This report will help keep you in the loop about the progress of our group.

Carl arrived about 7 pm. I began by explaining that our global warming group felt we need specific suggestions as to how to be effective in lobbying our government representatives. (Individually we had written letters to local and provincial governments and a letter to the editor of The Daily Gleaner and Telegraph Journal.) I emailed Carl about this and asked if he could meet with us. He responded that he would come to this Thursday Discussion meeting. He also advised that we may consider concentrating on lobbying the federal government for a carbon tax. Then three or four weeks later I see the article in The Daily Gleaner dated April 29, 2008. The title of the article is **B.C. plans to move ahead with carbon tax**. I am happy that British Columbia has introduced Bill 37. It is “a ground-breaking, revenue-neutral carbon tax that will encourage all British Columbian families and businesses to lower their carbon footprint”, said Finance Minister Carole Taylor as she introduced Carbon Tax Act 2008. This is a good thing but what we need is for our federal government to enact this type of legislation. It would save a lot of time and money not to mention the planet. Instead of each province reinventing the wheel and fighting for these things separately.

We are fortunate to have Carl’s input because not only was he among a few Canadians that was trained by Al Gore in Texas a year ago, but also, he has just returned from another training opportunity with Al Gore in Montréal. He reported to us that Al Gore pointed out the Top Three Things we should concentrate on. They are:

1. Carbon Tax
2. Cap and Trade
3. Investment Tax Credit

The first priority is put a **tax on carbon**.

Oil, natural gas, coal, all these fuels create carbon emissions. We need some of these petroleum products for many things we use. We also are overusing our resources. A tax can slow down the harmful use of these products. In the past our economic system considered carbon emissions as an externality to the economic system. We need factor in these emissions by giving them a value.

The second priority **Cap and Trade**

Under this system everyone using carbon gets a certain quota allocation. If you don’t use your quota you can sell off credits if you use more than your quota you pay more. Carl explained that as long as we don’t put a value on carbon we continue to destroy our environment.

The third priority **investment tax credit**

I think that this means investing in green energy. We need to be careful that we don’t invest in biofuels that increase

our problems rather than solve them. We agreed that we need to feed our populations before we feed our cars.

The next topic that was my concern that the employees and government staff were not being given training in environmental matters. They need their awareness raised and they need training if they are to implement all the new environmental policies in our future fight against global warming. We raised the example of the city hybrid cars that are not being used by the staff because they weren’t properly trained how to use them. So, staff preferred using the old vehicles. Carl said that we can use the argument that our government should be leading at the front of the pack. This is a good argument for raising awareness of government employees.

Carl agreed that letter writing can be effective. Individually signed letters. We need to do our research and speak clearly to what direction we want our MLA’s and MP’s or local government, to go. We talked about the environmental movement now reaching a tipping point. In our letters we might say that we are ready now for change and they can count on our votes if they support this movement.

There is a website that we can google called office of energy efficiency for information about the fuel economy of vehicles. I haven’t tried it yet but it does sound interesting.

Also, it was suggested that we might be interested in viewing a documentary called The End of Suburbia.

Someone brought up the problem of the pine beetles out west destroying thousands of Acres of pine trees and the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from that destruction.

We talked about our embarrassment when our Environment Minister John Baird was booed At the Conference in Bali.

We need to act because the alternative is unimaginable.

I want to report that we also discussed the article in the CUC Newsletter titled Environment - How green is your sanctuary? by Joel Fox We would like to become an accredited green space and according to this article we have already completed at least half of the things on the list. Some of the accredited congregations are Sarnia-Port Huron, Hamilton, Calgary and UCMontréal. The first step is to establish a “Green Team”. My question to all of us is, “**Are you up for it?**” Let me know what you think.

One who is up for it...

Haifa Miller



## Memories of the CUC ACM

Memories of the 2008 Canadian Unitarian Council Annual Meeting in Ottawa

Ken and I try to attend as many of the CUC Annual Meetings as possible and each year they seem to get bigger and bigger. This year the Conference was held at Algonquin College in Ottawa with over 600 people attending from all over Canada. Thirteen attended from Fredericton and there were attendees from the U.K. and the U.S. as well.

I would like to mention some of the highlights for me.

The Ingathering Service on Friday night was so moving - seeing the Banner Parade coming in with all the colourful Congregational Banners is always a highlight. (We forgot to take ours!!)

Allison and Will Brewer were the keynote speakers on Saturday morning giving a very moving account of being social activists in the small, conservative city of Fredericton. The theme of the conference was "The Web of Life in Our Hands" and Will and Allison neatly dove-tailed their lives into that theme. It was a memorable address.

The Workshop on Professional Ministry brought to light some interesting facts: The U.K. has 184 Unitarian congregations but only 49 have ministers. Their General Assembly is currently developing a training program for Lay Ministers and are exploring the concept of "Team Ministry" with 1 professional minister and 2 lay ministers working with a cluster of congregations. Rev. Beth Miller reported that the UUA is currently training 12 UU Military Chaplains.

"Good Volunteering Practices" workshop raised many interesting ideas for us. Do we thank our volunteers enough?

I brought back materials from the workshop on "Growth" which could be very useful for our congregation. We discussed impediments to growth.

The Mark Mosher DeWolfe Annual Lecture given by Rev. Phillip Hewett was just excellent! This lecture is given as part of the Canadian Unitarian Historical Society Annual Meeting and is on some aspect of Canadian Unitarianism. Rev. Hewett spoke about the Toronto Church in the 1850's and the influence of Rev. William Hincks.

Rev. Fred Cappuccino led the worship service on Monday and delivered a strong sermon - "Nine Reasons for Unitarians to Oppose the Afghan War" which was extremely good.

Ron Bulmer from the Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax will continue into his 2nd year on the CUC Board representing the Eastern Region.

Other highlights were: sharing wonderful meals with Sharon and John, sitting with Dave during services, sharing rooms with George and Allison and watching Joanne and Carlos and their family involved in so many activities.....not to mention making new friends and talking to old friends.

We drove home from Ottawa with the Conference Song

"Circle of Song" ringing in our heads !

Sheila Moore



*Will and Allison at ACM*



## A Note from Sunday Services

During the service of May 25, the service leader, Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes tried something a little different which has been discussed in our committee meetings. A time was set aside near the start of the service, for people who wished, to light candles. The lighting could be accompanied by the speaking of just a name or by silence as the person lighting the candle was moved.

The comment had been made to the Adult Programme Sunday (*worship*) Services committee that, when joys and concerns is towards the end of the service, candles might be lit only to be extinguished a few minutes later. For people who find comfort in lighting candles, their comfort may be extended and magnified to see the light shining throughout the service.

The committee had decided early in the year to move joys and concerns to the end of the service because we found it often interfered with the flow and mood that the service leader was trying to establish for the service topic of the day. It is for the same reason that announcements have been moved to before the start of the service proper. With a small congregation, there is no need to do what some larger congregations have done in making joys and concerns an almost token observation. The committee felt that joys and concerns filled a real need that could and

should be met.

We hope that having the candle lighting near the start of the service will help to better serve the spiritual needs of those who find significance in the lighting of candles without disrupting the flow of the service that the service leader is attempting to establish. During joys and concerns, the candle lighter is invited to elaborate on why the name or the lighting was significant or, if the lighting itself was sufficient, to keep silent.

We, each of us, have different needs. The third and fourth principles bear on this and, as a worship committee, even if the word worship is not formally in the committee title, we try to balance these needs.

In a congregation where even the word "worship" is anathema to some it can be a very fine task to find balance. We have people who find comfort in mysticism and others for whom only what is observable is real and others for whom all is uncertainty. The exact make up of each service is the final decision of the service leader for that service. You will note that in some services we sing hymns and in others, songs. In some services we gather in community while in others we worship.

As a committee, we encourage the service leader to include certain components in each service and may recommend that a particular ordering be followed, however, the decision is the service leader's. By having different people lead the services, we get variety and, one hopes, better meet the needs of all more often than not or at least on occasion.

*In fellowship*  
Tony Fitzgerald



## On-Street Parking

Please park on the street for our Sunday Service at 11am. We have new 'Sunday parking signs' on the street, compliments of City Hall.

Please leave our on site spaces for people who don't walk well, those with children etc.

We have limited parking on our property.

*Thanks*  
Patricia  
Buildings & Grounds



## Report of Finance and Facilities II

May 25, 2008

Since the last board meeting I have reviewed the treasurer's files. My goodness, our Allan Walls is certainly

well organized! Everything is clearly marked in file folders and filed appropriately - thank you Allan. You have done such a wonderful job as Treasurer in the last two years.

We are on track with our financial planning for this year. The new board and committee chairs taking over July 1st will be pleased that the previous chairs have left adequate budget for them to continue until the fiscal year end in December 2008.

*Respectfully submitted*  
Patricia desChamps  
Vice President Finance & Facilities



## Buildings and Grounds Report II

May 25th, 2008

The grounds outside look lovely - our magnolia is in full bloom. This year there are several hundred blooms on it. The lawns and gardens have had spring fertilizer applied.

There are new daffodils and narcissus in the bed at our York Street UFF sign and in the new bed where we put the clay soil when we dug out and repaired the drainage ditch. The six new shrubs at the York Street UFF sign have lived through the winter - they did suffer a fair amount of damage with the heavy snow load on them. The hedges and shrubbery have had a spring haircut and the pansies are already planted in the stone planter at the garage. The pansies were planted by Janet Crawford the day of Heidi and Eric's wedding.

I will email Danny about the rest of the tree (at the south end of the east property line) that he offered to take away last fall. He has only removed the large pieces as yet. It really should be removed as it's on the south lawn.

The eight blue PeeGee Hydrangea that were planted have lived through the winter. Each is covered by a green metal protective stand one metre high that will keep people from walking on them belong to me I will probably take them home spring 2009.

The crushed rock that went over the edge of the driveway (on the north side of the garage) was gathered up and put back on the driveway. There were more than ten large wheelbarrow loads.

The lawn mowing contract has been given to ServiceMaster Lawn Care, Ross Stewart. They mowed the lawns for the first time last week. For the past few years the fellowship has had Admiral Building Maintenance, Michael Bacon doing lawn care. Admiral's mowers didn't mow within five feet of the shrubbery at the south property line, and had a lot of difficulty communicating requests between management and the actual mowers.

We do need some volunteers for weed removal in the driveway and a bit of raking under the shrubbery. I would also

like to have hosta donated to put in the new bed with the extra clay soil. If you have any chunks of hosta please give me a call.

Michel stripped and waxed the library floor, I cleaned the fridge and removed spoiled food items, new batteries have been put in each clock, the marble fireplace mantles were cleaned with marble cleaner, light fixtures have been cleaned, etc. Mara Pilic, our housekeeper, comes every Friday and does a really good job. Her husband Branko helps her with heavy things. This year we gave her a \$5 raise. She is now paid \$55 a week.

The long narrow table has been covered with vinyl and put back out on the north portico. The north portico is ready to be used - it's especially nice for coffee after church on Sundays. The lanai has been swept, the propane BBQ is ready for use and the tempered glass table has been washed and I purchased clear plastic to cover it.

I plan to finish my job at Buildings and Ground at the end of June. I have spend time this week gathering information about B&G and putting in a container for the new chair of this committee who will start at the end of June. I will also include the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 Buildings and Grounds Reports that were published in their entirety in the last two Annual Meeting Reports published each June.

*Respectfully submitted*  
Patricia desChamps



## Eastern Region Fall Gathering

At the Confluence:

Réunissons Nous où les Eaux se Rejoignent



November 7-9, 2008  
Kingston Unitarian Fellowship

Start planning now to attend.

*editor's note: I have forms for submitting workshop ideas for those who are interested.*



## Report from the Executive Director

Cross Country Connections

Decentralization

2007 saw more decentralization of the CUC by opening an office in Vancouver. Janice Lincoln who worked in the

Toronto office moved to Vancouver and the board decided to use this opportunity to setup a physical Vancouver office. Janice's knowledge of CUC and relationships with Phil and others in Toronto made this much easier than it would otherwise have been.

Kirstie Peden moved to Winnipeg but keeps on working for the CUC approximately 10 hours per week setting up surveys, registration forms and a myriad of word-processing tasks.

Laura McNaughton was hired as the new Director of Regional Services - West and she's located in Saskatoon.

And, of course, volunteers and board members are spread across the country from coast to coast. Email groups and, increasingly, teleconferences are essential ways we keep in touch.

### Wired Unitarians

We continue to learn ways to make use of electronic communication tools to do our work.

In 2007, we learned about doodle.ch - a way to poll people about a meeting time and date; google docs for collaborating on a document or spreadsheet together; facebook - where you can meet many of our Unitarian youth and young adults.

We experimented with webconferencing; started one-hour teleseminars as a way of offering training and used survey-monkey.com more and more for registration and evaluation forms as well as surveys.

### Volunteers Do The Work

The majority of the work of CUC is done by willing volunteers with staff's role supporting the individuals and groups. In my portfolio, I work directly with volunteers in lay chaplaincy, social responsibility and the ACM teams.

Our board is a diverse mix of individuals who work very hard individually and collectively to set the vision, mission and policies of the CUC. It's a privilege to support them in this important work.

### Connections

Probably the most enjoyable part of my work is meeting real live Unitarians "up-close and personal." When I visit congregations for a particular purpose (such as choosing a venue for an ACM) I often have several meetings a day over several days and am frequently asked to participate in the worship service. These connections fuel my batteries and grounds me in the reasons for the communications and administrative work that happens primarily by remote.

### Team Performing and Then Mourning

One model of team development suggests we go through four phases of forming, storming, norming and performing. It's been suggested there needs to be a fifth stage of "mourning" because typically as a team reaches performing, there may be some significant change that puts them

back to forming again.

It's with sadness, that we accepted the resignation of Sylvia Bass West as Director of Lifespan Learning as of June 30, 2008. Her work over the six years she's held that role has made a tremendous difference in the culture of the CUC-making us all more aware of how to integrate people of all ages. I personally will miss her immensely. Thanks, Syl, for all you do and all you are.

Mary Bennett, Executive Director  
Ex-officio, non-voting Board Member



## A message from Mary

May 21, 2008

Summing up the Annual Conference and Meeting Over 600 people of all ages participated in music, worship, workshops, shared meals and networking over the May long weekend at Algonquin College and Ottawa First church.

The CUC staff met for two days and used an Appreciative Inquiry process to share our personal stories of highlights, look for themes and then describe the ACM (from our standpoints) at its best in order that we might capture those themes for future events.

Our top three themes were:

1. Community and connection All participants are welcomed and included with intentionality into the fullness of CUC ACM community and celebration.
2. Teamwork The ACM is a team comprised of participants, leaders and volunteers of all ages nurturing and supporting each other with clear boundaries and adequate human resources.
3. Reporting and communication We use communication systems that support opportunities for proactive reciprocal communication and foster community and leadership.

Saying Goodbye to Sylvia Bass West As part of the multi-generational day, we celebrated the six years of foundational work done by Director of Lifespan Learning, Sylvia Bass West, as she is leaving the CUC at the end of June. Sylvia's contributions are many not least of which the programs for children and babes through youth and young adults at the ACM. The 12 Keys to Lifespan Community will be a major legacy as congregations adopt this framework for their planning and implementation of multigenerational community. Tributes included a rainbow coloured file folder into which many participants put "pocket thoughts" - memories of how Sylvia and her work has touched them and their congregations. If you weren't there or didn't have a chance to fill out a "post it" for

Sylvia - please send via email to sylvia@cuc.ca or by mail to the Toronto office 018-1179A King Street West, Toronto ON M6K 3C5 and we will make sure Sylvia receives them.

Photos of the ACM are available on the facebook groups CUC Annual Conference & Meeting and CanUUdle. A selection will be posted to cuc.ca within the next week or so.

If you attended the ACM, please do let others in your congregation know what you experienced as the highlights and encourage them to attend, first, their regional gathering in the fall and then a future ACM - 2009 in Thunder Bay, 2010 on Vancouver Island and 2011 in Toronto, for our 50th anniversary.

Take care of yourselves and each other,

Mary  
Mary Bennett  
Executive Director  
Canadian Unitarian Council



## Letter re Uranium Prospecting

The following letter was sent to the Prime Minister, Minister of Indian Affairs and all 13 Premiers on Friday (attached as well as pasted below). It addresses the issue of mining, and particularly uranium prospecting, on land claimed by First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

In faith,  
Robbie Brydon,  
Administrative Coordinator East  
Canadian Unitarian Council

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May 23, 2008

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper,  
Prime Minister of Canada,  
House of Commons,  
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6

The Honourable Chuck Strahl, PC, MP  
Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and  
Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians,  
House of Commons,  
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6

Re: Uranium Prospecting

Dear Prime Minister,

The Canadian Unitarian Council joins the Shabot Obaadjiwan and Ardoch First Nations as well as numerous municipalities in urging your government to declare an immediate moratorium on uranium mineral prospecting, explo-

ration and mining. We ask as well that you take action to settle outstanding land claims by Canada's Aboriginal peoples, as we did on June 29, 2007, we "urge Canada to work diligently to resolve these long-standing issues in partnership with First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples, and in a just and compassionate way."

Until the land claims are settled, we ask you to ensure proper consultation on the use of land that has never been ceded and remains disputed, as is required by law. Further, if Aboriginal peoples request mediation with the provincial and federal governments to resolve such issues, we request that you act quickly to ensure this process is carried out in good faith.

Our concerns have been heightened by the events near Sharbot Lake and the concerns of the Algonquin people, who have been attempting to prevent the mining exploration company Frontenac Ventures Corp. from doing test drilling for uranium on land claimed by the Algonquin people. Canadian law stipulates that these lands cannot be developed

without the consent of the Algonquin. Neither Canada nor Ontario has consulted with the Algonquin about uranium exploration, despite the fact that the staked land is part of a Comprehensive Land Claim that is under ongoing negotiation with Ontario and Canada.

It has become clear that a review and complete overhaul of the Ontario Mining Act and other legislation is necessary in order for companies to be prevented from prospecting, claim staking, and exploration without the meaningful consultation or the consent of Aboriginal communities, municipalities and private property owners.

Actions such as those in Eastern Ontario and the Ottawa River watershed, and the arrest of Robert Lovelace for his role in a peaceful demonstration are the most urgent among a growing number of environmental and social concerns raised by uranium prospecting and mining. Problems in Uranium City and La Ronge, SK, where the Council of Indian Chiefs oppose uranium mining, are ongoing, and in March the City council of Moncton, N.B., voted unanimously to call on the province to ban all uranium

exploration and mining in New Brunswick. On March 18, 2008, the Ontario Superior Court sentenced Chief Donny Morris and six other council members to six months in jail for "contempt of court" for defying a court order to stay away from land belonging to the Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation slated for mining by the Platinex Corporation. In fact, Judge Patrick Smith cited charges against Robert Lovelace as a precedent. We fear that uranium mining will continue to cause serious problems for relations between Canada's Aboriginal peoples and both federal and provincial governments.

The Canadian Unitarian Council affirms "Justice, equity and compassion in human relations." In 2007, we resolved "that the CUC calls on all its congregations to promote our shared principles by being active witnesses for racial, religious, and First Nations equity in our communities." We consider the possibility of uranium mining near Sharbot Lake, along with the government's failure to create processes for meaningful consultation, and its treatment of people who oppose uranium exploration on environmental, safety, and legal grounds, to contravene this principle.

We hope that the Canadian and provincial governments will

- \* release Robert Lovelace from jail immediately,
- \* consult with First Nations people as they are required to do, and
- \* overhaul outdated legislation, including mining acts

We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to demonstrate good faith through genuine consultation, and to be forward-thinking on issues of potentially grave consequence to our Aboriginal and other communities.

Sincerely yours,  
Jean Pfleiderer, Ph.D.  
President  
Canadian Unitarian Council /  
Conseil Unitarien du Canada

*various CC's contact Touchstone editor if you wish details*

This space wants your material!