



KAIROS

2018 Annual Report

FAITHFUL ACTION FOR JUSTICE

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE



Anne Mitchell, SC Chair

2018 was my first year as Chair of the Steering Committee (SC). I'd like to thank the SC for showing their confidence in me to take on this role.

KAIROS was formed in 2001, bringing together 10 inter-church coalitions with justice commitments reaching back over 50 years now. We are responding to the call to "do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8). Today, we are Indigenous, settlers, and newcomers in Canada working with people of faith or conscience for justice.

We work together to build support for a more just and sustainable world. This means supporting Indigenous peoples in advocating for their right to decolonize and live in a decolonized world, working to promote climate justice and sustainable energy policies, building support for the rights of migrant workers and newcomers to Canada, and the right for all to live in peace. We do this by writing to our governments, the Prime Minister, Members of Parliament and Opposition leaders, joining a local or regional KAIROS group, sharing information and strategies with our partners, and working with other groups and organizations to build power to engage with governments and the private sector on the issues that we care about.



KAIROS Steering Committee, October 2018 | Photo: KAIROS

As Chair of the Steering Committee, I am deeply grateful to the members of the Steering Committee and the Circles, to members of the local and regional KAIROS communities, to partners, and to the staff for all that they do to enable KAIROS' prophetic voice to be heard. I also want to thank our donors, many of whom are reading this Annual Report, for the financial support that you give to KAIROS. Without such support, KAIROS would not be able to support its partners and communities as together we strive to live in a more just and peaceful world.

Given the increasing inequities and violence in the world, and in Canada, KAIROS will be assessing how best it can use its resources to strengthen its programs and to be true to its mandate, which is to "deliberate on issues of common concern, striving to be a prophetic voice in the public sphere." In 2019, we will be embarking on developing our 2021-26 strategic plan.

One of the issues that I believe is of common concern for those of us involved in KAIROS is the need to strengthen our advocacy on human rights so that people can live in peace

and not in fear. That is our goal, if we are seeking a just world. As Ursula Franklin wrote, "Peace is not the absence of war, but the presence of justice and the absence of fear." How do we best work towards the presence of justice and the absence of fear and be true to KAIROS' mandate? One way is to continue to raise questions of justice and human rights with our partners and governments. Another is to raise the question of military spending when we are told there are no funds for housing or clean water in Indigenous communities, or for environmental clean up, or for a green energy strategy in Canada, or for education and health care. And we can support the communities in the migrant justice and *Women of Courage* programs as they raise questions about human rights and fairness.

If we want to be true to KAIROS' mandate, we need to work with others to ensure that we can live in a world at peace, with justice and without fear. We need to raise our voices.

Anne Mitchell
Chair, KAIROS Steering Committee

KAIROS BLANKET EXERCISE

2018 was a record-breaking year and a year of firsts for the KAIROS Blanket Exercise (KBE). From elementary school students on Bowen Island, B.C., to department chairs and senior leaders in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto, tens of thousands of people – not all of them in Canada – experienced the Exercise. A few reflections and reactions:

"We can fix this. There's enough of us at this school. If enough of us become politicians or something like that, we could potentially change our bit of the world." Kalan, a grade six student at Island Pacific School, Bowen Island, B.C., after participating in the KBE

"This isn't like a typical lecture, where you're hearing statistics and talking about social determinants of health. As the blankets are removed, the issues are being visualized in front of you." Dr. Lisa Richardson, co-lead of Indigenous Medical Education, University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine

"We felt that the Blanket Exercise would be a great experiential exercise, giving the cadets some Indigenous history while understanding how it impacts the communities we serve." Nathalie Fehr, curriculum designer at the RCMP training academy in Saskatoon, where every new cadet participates in the KBE

The largest KBE ever took place in Thunder Bay, Ontario in August when more than 800 students gathered for the annual Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth Gathering.

Elder Gene Nowegejick, a residential school survivor from Gull Bay First Nation, was one of the talking circle leaders.



KAIROS Blanket Exercise in Guatemala. | Photo: KAIROS

At the end, he reflected on the importance of the KBE as a way for people to understand the past and thus prevent it from repeating itself. For the students, he sees it as a way to both learn the facts and truth about the history of Canada, and to become future advocates. He told the young people:

"I am a descendent of the Robinson Superior Treaty of 1850. I have a direct link to the treaty in this area, so I understand what happened and what it was like and what's happening moving forward."

2018 was also the year that the KBE went truly global, with KBEs and/or KAIROS Blanket Exercise Facilitator Trainings taking place in the US, Ireland and Guatemala. In the US, KAIROS staff delivered a KBE Facilitators Training session in Syracuse and worked with the Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation to help them develop their own version of the script. KAIROS also worked with staff and students at the New Hope Foundation in Guatemala to fine tune their version of the KBE. The latter was part of the follow up to the 2017 Guatemala Youth Exchange, which

saw young people from Guatemala participate in the Kitchi Blanket Exercise on Parliament Hill; as well, a group of Indigenous and settler youth from Canada travelled to Guatemala to help develop the Guatemalan version of the KBE.

A team from KAIROS that traveled to Ireland in November to facilitate KBEs heard about the parallels between the experiences of Irish Travellers – a minority community – and Indigenous people in Canada:

"There were tears and laughter. There was tension, but there was also relief. Tears came as we did the KBE and heard our Irish and Travellers sisters and brothers tell us how similar the history in the KBE is to that of Ireland. Irish Travellers experience racism and discrimination, and as result, high levels of suicide. It's the same," said Tealey Ka'senni:saks Normandin, a Mohawk knowledge carrier from Kahnawake who was part of the KAIROS team.

And finally, the KBE went tri-lingual (English, French and Spanish) on two occasions, once in April and again in November, with the participation of KAIROS global partners.

The numbers tell a big part of the 2018 KBE story:

- 1,100 individual KBEs delivered to an estimated 33,000 participants: this doesn't include those KBEs organized by regional or denominational networks or by facilitators not connected to KAIROS
- 50 KAIROS Blanket Exercise Facilitator Trainings across Canada
- 40 new agreements with groups and organizations in all sectors, bringing the number of agreements to 75 and ensuring that the KBE will be delivered in a safe and consistent way to more than 200,000 people



KAIROS Blanket Exercise training with the RCMP | Photo: CBC



Meeting with BC Minister of Education and others. | Photo: KAIROS

EDUCATION FOR RECONCILIATION

In October, KAIROS released its updated *Education for Reconciliation Report Card (E4R)*, evaluating the progress made by each province and territory in implementing a school curriculum based on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Call to Action 62.i, which calls for all students from kindergarten to grade

twelve to learn about residential schools, treaties and the historical and contemporary contributions made by Indigenous peoples to Canada.

The *E4R Report Card* is part of KAIROS' *Winds of Change* campaign, which focuses on building support and momentum for reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada and keeping the full implementation of the TRC's 94 *Calls to Action* on the country's agenda. Since its inception in 2016, close to 30,000 petition signatures calling for

implementation of Call to Action 62.i have been presented to provincial legislatures in Nova Scotia, Ontario, Alberta, and, most recently, British Columbia.

At the end of October, members of the B.C. KAIROS network and Steering Committee, along with Indigenous leaders and educators, met with provincial government ministers and officials to present the petitions that had been collected from across the province. The petitions were later presented to the B.C. legislature.



WPS partners at Niagara Falls | Photo: KAIROS

WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

In May, KAIROS was very happy to announce that its funding proposal to Global Affairs Canada for *Women of Courage: Women, Peace and Security* – a five-country, five-year project led by grassroots women peace-builders – had been fully approved.

This meant major boosts to their programs for five KAIROS partners: Héritiers de la Justice in the Democratic Republic of Congo; the National Council of Churches in the Philippines; Organización Femenina Popular in Colombia; the South Sudan Council of Churches - National Women's Programme; and Wi'am Palestinian Conflict Transformation Center in the West Bank.

Two representatives from each of these organizations gathered in Toronto in the fall to share stories of war, occupation, and the impacts of conflict on women. Each testified to the powerful leadership of grassroots women who are working to build peace and address

gender-based violence. They used the time together to strengthen their work as human rights defenders and peacemakers, as well as lend important support to one another.

"I am proof of the courage and the work of women human rights defenders who have come before me. I have grown in the movement and I am hopeful that our work is encouraging our youth to be transformative peacemakers themselves."

Vernie Diano from the National Council of Churches in the Philippines

A trip to Ottawa was an opportunity for the partners to meet with MPs,

Global Affairs Canada and KAIROS network members, share their stories and generate support for the work of peace-building in some of the most difficult places in the world.

The partners also participated in a tri-lingual KAIROS Blanket Exercise at the Native Canadian Centre in Toronto, which proved to be an emotional, powerful experience at which many of them drew parallels with their own histories of colonization.

Later, at a reception in Toronto, donors and members of the KAIROS network met the partners and recorded their own messages of support on social media.



Toronto WPS reception | Photo: KAIROS



Toronto WPS reception | Photo: KAIROS



Jessica Steele at a demonstration in Katowice during COP 24 | Photo: Sean Hawkey

ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE

"Climate change is an environmental issue. Climate change is a justice issue. We need to start treating climate change like the crisis that it is." Jessica Steele

One of KAIROS' key ecological justice initiatives in 2018 was the participation of two climate activists, Jessica Steele and Georgine Kengne, in the 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24) in December. They represented KAIROS in Katowice, Poland with a twofold mission: to urge the Canadian government to increase its greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets, and to join other women climate activists adding their voices to the COP24 discussions on the gendered impacts of climate change.

While Jessica believes that the outcome of COP24 was not as significant as it could have been, she did find hope and inspiration:

"There are people from all around the world who are working at the grassroots level to create real change...defending their lands and waters and pushing their governments to take strong climate action, including just transition, investment in renewable energy and support for vulnerable communities."

KAIROS produced seven *New Economy Trailblazers* stories highlighting innovative projects in various parts of Canada (and one from the United States) that are advancing a just transition to a clean energy economy and the people and communities that are bringing them to life.

Advocacy activities to advance KAIROS' ecological justice goals included the

participation of Executive Director Jennifer Henry at a public witness action on Burnaby Mountain, B.C. against the federal government's decision to allow the expansion of the Trans Mountain pipeline. Her participation was in response to a call from members of Tsileil Waututh to faith leaders and all people of faith to stand with Coast Salish peoples in defence of the land, water and climate.

A couple of days before the event, KAIROS released a statement expressing disappointment in the government's decision and pointing out the dangers it posed to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in Canada and to the environment.



Reconciliation in the Watershed facilitators and participants in Pickering, Ontario | Photo: KAIROS

MIGRANT JUSTICE

KAIROS' migrant justice initiatives in 2018 included education and community building activities, a new congregational workshop resource, and forums in Ontario, the Northwest Territories, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island that brought together migrant workers and their allies, including local unions, churches and community groups.

Several advocacy actions backed up these efforts:

KAIROS organized a delegation of migrant caregivers and advocates to Ottawa in March to meet with Members of Parliament (MP), including the Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration, and to participate in a consultation with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) about the new Caregiver Program that was being developed. The delegates urged Canada to ensure that the pathway to permanent residency for migrant caregivers and other migrant workers be guaranteed

and protected. A letter-writing action later in the year encouraged people to write to MPs and the IRCC Minister with the same request.

In April, KAIROS made a formal submission to IRCC, titled *Shaping Canada's New Caregiver Program Post November 2019*. Informed by KAIROS' many years of collaboration and work with caregivers and other migrant workers, it made recommendations that included granting migrant workers permanent resident status upon arrival in Canada and eliminating the backlog of applications for permanent status.



Migrant caregivers and advocates with Jenny Kwan, MP | Photo: KAIROS



Indigenous and Newcomer Friendships for a Just and Inclusive Community participants in Saskatoon | Photo: KAIROS

INDIGENOUS AND NEWCOMER FRIENDSHIPS FOR A JUST AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

In 2017, KAIROS launched *Indigenous and Newcomer Friendships for a Just and Inclusive Community*, a series of unique gatherings that brought together Indigenous peoples and newcomers to Canada – and followed up with events in Saskatoon, Edmonton, Winnipeg and Thunder Bay in 2018. The impetus for the gatherings, all of which were organized in partnership with local communities,

was KAIROS' belief that Canada will be made stronger by building relationships of respect and solidarity between newcomers and Indigenous peoples. The 2018 events attracted approximately 850 participants in all and left behind a determination to create opportunities for future gatherings.

Raven Sinclair, a Nehiyaw-Cree from George Gordon First Nation, echoed other Indigenous participants when she

said to the newcomers at the February gathering in Saskatoon:

"I want to know about your journey... because I know that behind every refugee or immigrant, there is a story. I want to know what is behind your decision to come here. I want to know about you."

A video released in June captured some of the flavour and spirit of the *Indigenous and Newcomer Friendships for a Just and Inclusive Community* events.



Indigenous and Newcomer Friendships for a Just and Inclusive Community participants in Saskatoon. | Photo: KAIROS

BILL C-262: UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ACT

"The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is a crucial and indispensable tool for the urgent work of reconciliation... with Bill C-262 now moving to the Senate, we have cleared an important hurdle in bringing the UN Declaration to life in Canada." Grand Chief Wilton Littlechild, Commissioner with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada



Bill C-262 will ensure that the laws of Canada are in harmony with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. KAIROS has long advocated for Canada to implement the *UN Declaration*, so it was fitting that 2018 began with KAIROS urging the government to ensure the passage of Bill C-262 at second reading in the House of Commons, and mobilizing its network to contact Members of Parliament to help make that happen. Once the Bill passed third reading in June, Senator Murray Sinclair introduced it in the Senate and KAIROS' focus shifted to encouraging people to contact Senators to ask them to support Bill C-262. By the end of the year, each Senator had received almost 1,200 letters.

OPEN FOR JUSTICE CAMPAIGN

For many years, KAIROS has been part of the mining justice movement advocating for corporate accountability on the part of Canadian mining companies operating overseas. This includes calling on the Canadian government to put in place mandatory legal mechanisms and an independent Ombudsperson with the power and resources to investigate and hold Canadian mining companies accountable for their actions. After ten years of advocacy, KAIROS and its network and partners in Canada and around the globe welcomed the federal government's January announcement of the creation of

MUCH OF THE WORLD IS OPEN
FOR CANADIAN BUSINESS. CANADA
NOW HAS AN UNPRECEDENTED
OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW LEADERSHIP
AND TO MAKE CANADA'S EXTRACTIVE
SECTOR OPEN FOR JUSTICE.

a Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Business Enterprise.

For KAIROS, this issue ties together partnership, gender justice, Indigenous rights and ecological justice initiatives, so for the remainder of the year, we



#OMBUDSPERSON
for mining justice now!
www.kairoscanada.org/ombudsperson-now

joined with thousands of others – including Indigenous communities, workers and human rights defenders – to keep the issue in the forefront and advocate with political decision makers in order to ensure that an effective Ombudsperson office be established.

WOMEN RESISTING EXTRACTIVISM

The *International Gathering of Women Resisting Extractivism* in Montreal in April highlighted the impacts of resource extraction on Indigenous women and gave participants, including KAIROS partners, a forum to share their struggles and strategies of resistance.

KAIROS was there with a delegation of eight women – several of them Indigenous from Canada, Ecuador, the Philippines, South Africa and Colombia – with the goal of strengthening its *Gendered Impacts of Resource Extraction* program.

A tri-lingual KBE with over 100 participants took place at the start of the gathering. The following day, KAIROS organized a workshop where members of the delegation told their stories and described strategies to defend their human rights, land and



Participants from the *Women Resisting Extractivism* conference | Photo: KAIROS

communities in the face of large-scale resource extraction projects.

From Montreal, several of the delegates went on to Ottawa to meet with members of the KAIROS network, Members of Parliament and staff from Global Affairs Canada and to

deliver the message that it is time for Canada to appoint an independent Ombudsperson and take responsibility for the destructive impacts of its resource extraction activities on the land and lives of people around the world, especially on women.

DR. DÉNIS MUKWEGE: 2018 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE CO-RECIPIENT

KAIROS was proud to join human rights organizations, peace activists and women's groups all over the world in congratulating Dr. Denis Mukwege, Director of the Panzi Foundation in the Democratic Republic of Congo, as a co-recipient of the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize.

The award was in recognition of his efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict, and his work at the Panzi Hospital with women who have experienced gender-based violence.

Staff at KAIROS' partner organization, Héritiers de la Justice, work closely with Panzi Hospital, referring women who

need medical care, and participating in capacity-building sessions on psychosocial and legal support for survivors of gender-based violence. In addition, Héritiers de la Justice operates a legal clinic to assist women and other victims of violence learn their rights and navigate the legal system.

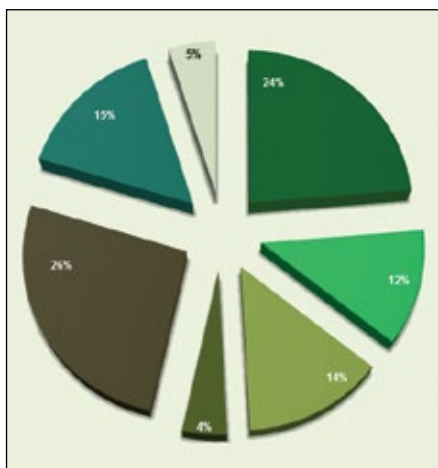


Dr. Denis Mukwege
Photo: The Nobel Prize

KAIROS FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS January 1 – December 31, 2018

TOTAL REVENUE

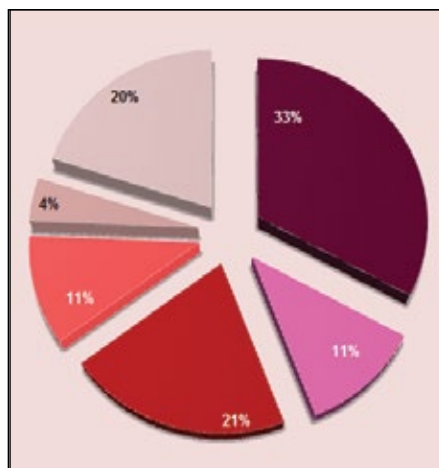
\$3,536,768



Member denominations.....	838,066
Religious orders	420,650
Individuals & group donations	479,909
Grants	152,250
Other revenue including KBE.....	928,804
Global Affairs Canada	545,266
Investment Income	171,823

TOTAL EXPENSES

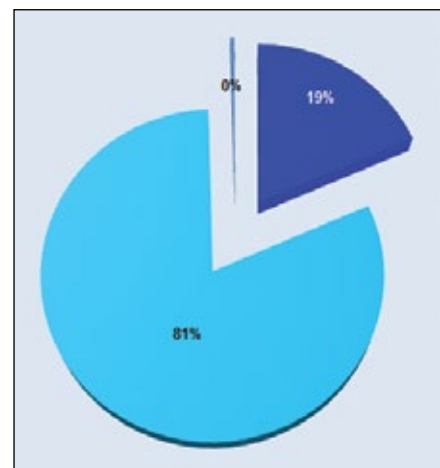
\$3,804,083



KAIROS Blanket Exercise program	1,250,012
Women, Peace and Security (WPS)	429,701
Other programs.....	788,683
Grants (including WPS)	408,668
Investment and other expenses	165,252
Administration and fundraising	761,767

RESERVE FUND

\$8,287,937



General fund	1,531,221
Justice fund.....	6,725,995
Capital fund	34,119
Global partnership program fund.....	(3,398)

2018 audited financial statements are available on request.

THANK YOU!

KAIROS is very grateful to all those donors whose generous support made possible the work described in this report.

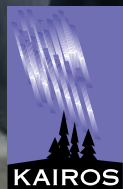
In addition to churches, religious communities and individual donors, KAIROS thanks these institutional donors for their generous grants:

- Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation
- Canada 150 Fund
- Steelworkers Humanity Fund
- Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration (Multicultural Community Capacity Grant Program)
- Barbara and John Barton Foundation
- United Way
- PSAC Social Justice Fund
- Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada (Integral Ecology Fund)
- Global Affairs Canada
- Basilian Human Development Fund
- Sisters of Charity – Charity Alive Fund
- CUPE Global Justice Fund
- DA Stinson Foundation
- Anglican Diocese of Ottawa
- Mauro Family Foundation
- Maritime Conference of the UCC (Mission Support)
- Carranza LLP
- UCC Foundation (William McLeish Fund)

Project coordinator and writer: Siobhan Rowan, with thanks to Fahira Golich / Design: Cathy Vandergeest, www.gawck.ca

FRONT COVER: Jessica Steele at a demonstration in Katowice during COP 24 | Photo: Sean Hawkey

BACK COVER: Participants from the Women Resisting Extractivism conference | Photo: KAIROS



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The members of KAIROS are: the Anglican Church of Canada, Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, Canadian Religious Conference, Christian Reformed Church in North America (Canada Corporation), Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, Mennonite Central Committee Canada, The Presbyterian Church in Canada, the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), and the United Church of Canada.