

PROJECT
PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY

Peace News

WWW.PLOUGHSHARESCALGARY.CA

JANUARY 2007



**WE ARE
LOCATED:
PARKDALE
UNITED
CHURCH**

**2919 8 AVE
NW**

270-7366

**OFFICE
@PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY.CA**

VISIT US:

MON, TUE, THURS

10:30-2:30

WED 2-6PM

January 10th 7:30pm Parkdale United Church: Calgary Centre for Global Community with Dr. Arthur Clark

Imagine if there was a facility in Calgary that could provide all the needs for our social justice and peace community. What would it look like? What would need to be included? This meeting will be an opportunity to explore our imagination for what facility is needed to make our work more successful.

Please join us for our January monthly meeting with Dr. Arthur Clark and Jamie Taylor with the Parhad Programmes.

Dr. Clark will share his vision with us for the Calgary Centre for Global Community. This evening will be a facilitated interactive discussion. Dr. Clark will share his architectural designs for this new building.

The Centre will foster active, responsible, well-informed local and global citizenship.



The centre will include a **visitors centre, a conference centre and a connections centre.**

Dept. of Peace & Poets for Peace

Mark on your calendar our upcoming monthly meetings. To avoid conflict with Valentine's Day we will host our February monthly meeting on February 21st in the Parkdale UC auditorium.

Our speaker will illuminate a national initiative to create a department of peace in the federal government. For more information check out: www.departmentofpeace.ca/

March monthly meeting will be a Poetry Reading with poets for peace (including Sheri-D Wilson!) to commemorate the fourth anniversary of the invasion of Iraq.

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Puppets Need You!



Volunteers for Puppets for Peace Steering Committee needed!

Be part of a great team of people committed to bringing to elementary students a message of how to deal with bullying. This award winning puppet presentation has already been seen by 35,000 students and teachers.

The steering Committee oversees the running of the program which includes a co-ordinator and several puppeteers.

Phone Sally at 247-1653 or email puppets@ploughsharescalgary.ca with questions or to volunteer. This is a fun, rewarding volunteer job! Meetings once a month.

Volunteer for Puppets for Peace **Promotion** Committee needed. This fun young committee think up ways of promoting Puppets for Peace so that schools book it and the public supports it. Monthly meeting and friendship! Phone Sally at 247-1653 or email puppets@ploughsharescalgary.ca.



Ploughshares National News

Ernie Regehr

On 8 November 2006, Ernie Regehr was one of two presenters at the second of three briefing sessions on Afghanistan held by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development. The other presenter was Professor David Bercuson, Director, Centre for Military and Strategic Studies, University of Calgary. Ernie's presentation is available online:
<http://www.ploughshares.ca/libraries/Reduce/SCFAIDPres08Nov06.pdf>

Small arms control and development – a joint Ploughshares-CIDA project

In mid-2006 Project Ploughshares launched a [joint project](#) with the Policy Branch of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to translate experience and knowledge regarding the control of small arms and light weapons into guidance for the integration of small arms control into Canada's development programming.

Sudan roundtable in Juba

In mid-October 2006 John Siebert and Lynne Griffiths-Fulton traveled to Juba in Sudan to take part in a [roundtable with key stakeholders](#) – civil society representatives and government officials – who are trying to bring sustainable peace to Sudan. The roundtable was held as part of the three-year research and engagement project, [Building the Capacity for Sustainable Peace in Sudan](#), a joint project of Project Ploughshares and APFO, a non-governmental organization based in Nairobi, Kenya.

Global News

UK nuclear weapons plan unveiled

Tony Blair has told MPs it would be "unwise and dangerous" for the UK to give up its nuclear weapons. The prime minister outlined plans to spend up to £20bn on a new generation of submarines for Trident missiles. He said submarine numbers may be cut from four to three, while the number of nuclear warheads would be cut by 20%. Mr Blair said although the Cold War had ended the UK needed nuclear weapons as no-one could be sure another nuclear threat would not emerge in the future.

Mr Blair said between £15bn and £20bn would be spent on new submarines to carry the Trident missiles. The submarines would take 17 years to develop and build, and would last until about 2050. He said the UK would also join the US programme to extend the life of the Trident missiles until 2042 - and would then "work with" the US on successor missiles. Mr Blair, who faces some opposition within the Labour Party to the plans, said there were "perfectly respectable" arguments about giving up nuclear weapons. He denied that Britain was under an obligation to disarm under the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and pointed out that new threats were posed by states like North Korea. Source BBC News Dec. 4 2006

TRIDENT MISSILE SYSTEM

Missile length: 44ft
Weight: 130,000lb
Diameter: (1.9m)
Range: More than 7,400km
Power plant: Three stage solid propellant rocket
Cost: £16.8m per missile
Source: Federation of American Scientists

UN General Assembly votes for historic Arms Trade Treaty

Work on an international Arms Trade Treaty will begin immediately following a historic vote in the UN General Assembly today, which saw 153 governments supporting the proposed Treaty to prevent international arms transfers that fuel conflict, poverty and serious human rights violations. Only the United States voted against the proposal, and 24 governments abstained. The UN General Assembly vote comes just three years after the launch of the Control Arms campaign, which has seen over a million people in 170 countries calling for a Treaty.

Three quarters of governments [153] voted in favour of the proposal, which was also supported by an overwhelming majority of governments in the UN General Assembly's First Committee in October. See the full press release on-line at:

<http://www.ploughshares.ca/libraries/Statements/ControlArmsPR27Oct06.pdf>

US Senate Approves US-India Nuclear Deal

On 16 November, the United States Senate overwhelmingly approved a controversial nuclear cooperation deal between India and the United States the Senate approved, specifically for India, an exception to existing US nuclear export and non-proliferation laws that would allow the sale of nuclear fuel and technology to India. The US-India nuclear cooperation deal is seen as dangerous by many arms control experts. Those experts fear that providing nuclear technology to India, which has not signed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and has conducted a nuclear weapons test in 1998, will weaken international non-proliferation efforts. It could also have a direct impact on negotiations with North Korea, the import of new technology and fuel has the potential to increase India's nuclear weapons production capacity by 40 per year. There is speculation that this increase in India's nuclear weapons production has the potential to spark a nuclear arms race in South Asia. Source: Linzer, Dafna, "Senate backs White House plan for India nuclear deal," *Washington Post*, 17 November 2006.



Project Ploughshares Calgary

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“And they shall beat their swords into
ploughshares and their spears into pruning
hooks” - Isaiah 2:41

Special thanks to Sylvia Hawkins, Tracey
Pickup and Larry Kennard for proof-reading
and editing this issue!

**Yes! I want to become a Project Ploughshares
Calgary donor and partner in building peace.**

Here is my one time donation

\$25 ___ (includes 1 yr to newsletter)

\$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$500 ___ Other \$ ___

I'd like to become a Friend of Ploughshares

And give a monthly donation

___ \$10 ___ \$15 ___ \$20 ___ \$25 Other \$ ___

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

E-mail: _____

Ploughshares 30th Anniversary Symposium

Ploughshares celebrated its 30th anniversary in November with a symposium covering the research and action areas of Project Ploughshares including: Controlling Small Arms and Light weapons, Abolishing Nuclear Weapons, the Africa Peace Forum and responding to global and Canadian Agendas. The opening speaker was Dr. Paul Rogers an eminent Peace Researcher from Bradford University in the UK. His talk explored the integrated reasons for concern in global human security and the emerging trends. He believes we must respond with a holistic understanding to see how the widening gap between the rich and poor, an increased awareness about world inequalities and the emerging

threat of global warming are fostering a unstable world future. A recording of this fascinating talk is available through the office and may be the subject of an upcoming monthly meeting.

Dr. Keith Krause from Geneva discussed the need to address small arms on a local initiative level rather than solely focusing on agreements like the arms trade treaty.

Dr. Randall Forsberg spoke on the difficulty of raising public awareness campaigns on nuclear weapons since the early nineties. She believes because of the partial success of the nuclear weapons campaigns of the '80's and the end of the

cold war people believe the issue is over. She suggested a targeted campaign of elites who are in positions of power which may be more strategic at this time.



Amb. Kiplagat from the Africa Peace Forum spoke on the efforts of Ploughshares and APFO to create a strategy for building peace in Africa.