

PROJECT
PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY

Peace News

MARCH 2010



We are located:

Parkdale United
Church
2919 8th Ave NW
T2N 1C8

403- 270-7366

Office hours:

Mon, Tue, Thurs
10:30am - 3pm

Wed 2 - 6pm

Building Momentum toward Zero Nuclear Weapons

A Project Ploughshares Calgary Mini-Workshop

Saturday March 13th 8:45am—1pm

Parkdale United Church (2919 8th Ave NW)



Come hear details of the many fronts on which nuclear weapon disarmament is moving forward such as:

- Renewed commitment by leaders of the United States and Russia
- The spring Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference
- The on-going review of NATO's strategic concept

Hear too, how YOU are still needed in reinforcing this momentum. Citizens of the world need to continue to voice their support! Bev DeLong can tell us precisely how to do so. Bev DeLong is Chairperson of the Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, a member of the Canadian Pugwash Group and one of the founders of Project Ploughshares Calgary.

Regular Workshop Fee: \$15 (refreshments & light lunch included) This is a bargain!
Student / Low Income: \$8 Contact the Ploughshares office to register.

The Art of Peace! with Fif Fernandes and Carolyn Pogue



7:30pm Wednesday April 14th

Parkdale United Church—2919 8th Ave NW



Fif Fernandes and Carolyn Pogue will speak about using the arts to explore and achieve peace. Together Fif and Carolyn call themselves *PeaceJam*, a couple of slightly off-the-wall women who might use story, puppetry, music, laughter yoga, breathing or visual arts to help young people focus on peace with self, nature, family, community and the world. They are the co-founders of *The Art of Peace: A Camp for Kids*, a regular summer event for artists and for children aged 9 to 13. Since the first Art of Peace Camp in Calgary 5 years ago, there have been 4 other camps started, from Halifax to Gulu, Uganda.

When they are not presenting as PeaceJam, you may find Carolyn writing another peace book or giving a workshop about writing to change the world in a school or library. You might find Fif as Shanti Amani Salaama the Peace Fairy at Banker's Hall or as Jumpa, the Therapeutic Clown at the Children's Hospital.

www.theartofpeacecamps.com www.youtube.com/user/theartofpeacecamps



Ploughshares Calgary News

Small Arms Big Impact: What can be done to address armed violence?

May 14-15 Ploughshares Calgary's Annual Spring Workshop

Ploughshares Calgary is working with Ploughshares national to plan for this workshop. Ploughshares national has been working on the issue of Small Arms and Light Weapons for many years including more recent efforts such as;

- research on the impact of armed violence on development (with World Vision in the Horn of Africa),
- a CIDA-funded current project "Building Peace in the Caribbean" (to increase community safety and reduce armed violence in support of a poverty-reduction strategy), and
- being a part of "Disarming Domestic Violence" (the first international campaign to protect women from armed violence in the home).

The May workshop will be an opportunity to hear from Ploughshares national staff on international and national efforts to prevent and control armed violence, as well as learn and discuss local efforts in this area. Make note of this workshop on your calendars and watch for more information!

The Coordination Challenge in Contemporary Peacebuilding

Lara Olson, Co-director of the Peacebuilding, Development and Security Program of the Centre for Military and Strategic Studies at the University of Calgary shared with a dozen people at Ploughshares' monthly public meeting on Feb 10 on what has been learned so far as part of an ongoing research project "Building Durable Peace: Enhancing Interagency Relationships in Peacebuilding." The research is examining all efforts, both civilian and military, in building peace in Kosovo, Haiti, Liberia and Afghanistan.

Peacebuilding is an "umbrella concept reflecting a comprehensive and long-term approach to peace and security including: early warning, conflict prevention, civilian and military peacekeeping, military intervention, humanitarian assistance, ceasefire agreements, the establishment of peace zones, reconciliation, reconstruction, institution building, and political as well as socio-economic transformation." (from www.peacebuild.ca) This definition of peacebuilding is similar to the UN Peacebuilding Commission's mandate.

Some key points or questions the researchers found that are a part of any peacebuilding process include:

1. What is the breadth of change necessary?
2. Need to plan for complexity
3. What are the sequences or priorities (is security first?)
4. Dilemmas cannot be ignored (agendas of different groups may undermine each other)
5. Which values are paramount? There are ethical choices and tradeoffs.

There are different relationships that have emerged between agencies involved in peacebuilding in regions where there have been conflict, and Olson's research has found each context is unique and needs a unique response (i.e. coordination is not the answer for every situation). In examining how agencies work together on peacebuilding some recurring issues include; respect for humanitarian space of NGO's, upholding of international human rights, local ownership (power structures that evolve), and that coordination between civilian and military agencies was problematic. The researchers have also found that there is a lack of credible evaluation matrices for peacebuilding programs.

Ploughshares Calgary appreciated learning more about peacebuilding research and hopes to have the chance to hear from Lara Olson again once the multi-year research project has concluded.

Calgary Events (For more information about these events or to RSVP please contact the event host.)

Wednesday March 10 PeaceTalk: *Military and Peacekeeping Ethics for a Culture of Peace* with Tom Rippon
6-8pm at ST 139 Hosted by the Consortium for Peace Studies at the University of Calgary

Thursday March 11 Free Workshop: *Dual Impact of War & Family Violence on Refugee Women*
11:30am-1:30pm 4807-8 Ave SE (Forest Lawn Public Library) Hosted by Community & Neighbourhood Services

Monday, March 15 & Thursday, March 18 PeaceFilm: *A Force More Powerful*
6-8pm (location tbd) Hosted by the Consortium for Peace Studies at the U of C www.ucalgary.ca/peacestudies/peacefilm

Tuesday March 23 Talk: *Standing up to Racism: What Can a Community Do?* with Sandy Dore
Noon to 1:30pm at MFH 2370 Hosted by March 21/Stop Racism Committee at the U of C www.ucalgary.ca/stopracism

Tuesday March 23 5:30pm Consortium for Peace Studies hosts *Peace Prize Dinner* Hotel Arts, 119, 12th Avenue SW
Recipient - human rights activist, documentary filmmaker and author Ms. Sally Armstrong, contact Consortium for tickets.

Ploughshares National News

NATO's Strategic Concept, the NPT, and Global Zero

Excerpts from Briefing paper by Ernie Regehr February 2010 www.ploughshares.ca/libraries/Briefings/brf101.pdf

At the 2009 NATO Summit in Strasbourg/Kehl the Alliance Secretary-General was asked to develop a new Strategic Concept. Member Governments called for a participatory review and the Secretary-General appointed a 12-member Group of Experts, chaired by former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, to guide the process. Amb. Marie Gervais-Vidricaire, currently the Canadian Ambassador to Austria, is the Canadian member of the group.

The current review is taking place in a new international context that holds the promise of real progress toward zero nuclear weapons; however, reports on discussions to date, as well as the focus of the growing literature on a new Strategic Concept, suggest that the nuclear question is not receiving priority attention. Afghanistan, other regional conflict zones, asymmetric and terrorist threats, and NATO's role as "an armed global defence and police force with serious strategic capacity" are the concerns and roles that are dominating the review process.

That process includes [first] a series of four seminars; second the experts will visit NATO capitals to discuss with Governments and Parliamentarians the findings from the seminars. A third and final phase will focus on negotiating a draft Strategic Concept to be approved by Heads of Government scheduled to meet in Portugal in the autumn of 2010.

a) *Revising the core principles of the Strategic Concept:*

New language in the strategic concept should:

- i) welcome and affirm the groundswell of calls for a world without nuclear weapons;
- ii) confirm NATO's commitment to the objectives of the NPT, and declare that the intent of Article VI is a world free of nuclear weapons;
- iii) commit NATO to security and arms control policies that ensure full conformity to Articles I and II of the NPT (by eliminating nuclear sharing), and that are designed to achieve the nuclear disarmament promised in Article VI;
- iv) declare that the elimination of nuclear weapons, not their retention, is essential to the security of NATO members;
- v) pledge NATO to work consistently to reduce the political legitimacy and value of nuclear weapons in order to contribute to the goal of their progressive reduction and eventual elimination.

b) *Nuclear forces out of Europe:*

- i) Canada should give encouragement to the efforts of European allies toward removing all remaining nuclear weapons from the territories of non-nuclear weapon state members of NATO, in support of longstanding international calls that all nuclear weapons be returned to the territories of the states that own them.

c) *NATO relations with Russia (and China):*

Canada should support the development of a new strategic relationship with Russia (and China) through initiatives such as:

- i) an upgrade of the NATO-Russia Council;
- ii) restraint on NATO enlargement efforts;
- iii) the engagement of all NATO states in reinvigorated East-West disarmament discussions, with a particular focus on non-strategic nuclear weapons;
- iv) promoting a continuing strategic dialogue between the US and Russia in support of a new Treaty and follow-on measures that engage other states with nuclear weapons;
- v) encouraging enhanced reporting to the NPT by NATO and Russia of current holdings of non-strategic nuclear weapons (aggregate numbers of warheads and delivery vehicles);
- vi) encouraging more detailed information through confidential exchanges on alert status, security provisions, and safety features;
- vii) developing new agreements on security and safety measures, deployment restrictions, and reductions; and encouraging expansion of such discussions on reductions to the global level; and
- viii) engaging China in relevant mutual approaches to strategic stability and nuclear disarmament.

d) *No-first-use:*

In the process of pursuing a world without nuclear weapons, NATO should implement a basic shift in its deterrence doctrine:

- i) through adoption of a no-first-use commitment; and
- ii) by confining the role of nuclear weapons to exclusively deter the use of nuclear weapons by other states until such time as arsenals are universally prohibited and eliminated.



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Special thanks to Diane Janzen, Larry Kennard and Lena Osman for their work writing and editing this issue of the newsletter.

Global News

UN-backed pact against cluster munitions to take effect

The United Nations-backed convention banning the use of cluster munitions will enter into force on 1 August after the 30th country ratified the pact today, a move that was immediately welcomed by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as “a major advance on the global disarmament agenda.

Burkina Faso and Moldova both submitted their instruments of ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions at UN Headquarters in New York, ensuring that the pact prohibiting explosive remnants of war known as either cluster munitions or unexploded ordnance becomes part of international law. In a statement issued by his spokesperson, Mr. Ban said the fact that the Convention was entering into forces just two years after countries adopted the treaty demonstrates the world's collective revulsion at the impact of these terrible weapons.

First used in the Second World War, cluster munitions contain dozens of smaller explosives designed to disperse over an area the size of several football fields, but often fail to detonate upon impact, creating large de facto minefields. They are also notoriously inaccurate. The failure rate makes these weapons particularly dangerous for civilians, who continue to be maimed or killed for years after conflicts end. Some 98 per cent of victims are civilians and cluster bombs have claimed over 10,000 civilian lives, 40 per cent of whom are children. Recovery from conflict is also hampered because the munitions place roads and lands off-limits to farmers and aid workers.

Mr. Ban called on all States that have not yet ratified to become a party to the Convention immediately. The United Nations is firmly committed to ending the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of cluster munitions and mitigating the suffering they cause, he said. 16 Feb 2010 Source: www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33790&Cr=disarmament&Cr1=

Need 5000 Emails/Letters for Canadian Work on Zero Nuclear Weapons

We believe nuclear weapons - threatening thousands of lives and our environment with even a small exchange - should be banned. The Government of Canada can speak out at three important events this year; i) during the ongoing review of the NATO Strategic Concept (only occurs once every 10 years—see pg 3), ii) at the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in May (only occurs every 5 years), and iii) during the G8 Summit.

We ask you to send emails that first welcome Canada's ongoing support for an effective Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and for the Government's efforts to improve its effectiveness through important institutional reforms. Then please urge the Government of Canada to:

- reaffirm Canada's traditional commitment to a world without nuclear weapons,
- support the call for an end to nuclear weapons reliance in NATO and the removal of US nuclear weapons in Europe,
- and support the proposal for preparatory work on a nuclear weapons convention and work on the verification requirements for nuclear disarmament.

Please send your emails to:

Prime Minister Harper at HarpeS@parl.gc.ca
Minister of Foreign Affairs Lawrence Cannon CannonL@parl.gc.ca }

Ambassador to NATO Robert.McRae@international.gc.ca
Ambassador for Disarmament c/o Jonathan.Tan@international.gc.ca }

For information on the current Canadian context, see this article by Doug Roche and Ernie Regehr: www.cigionline.org/blogs/2010/2/harper-government-missing-non-proliferation

For further information www.abolishnuclearweapons.ca

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Here is my donation for 2010 of:

\$35 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$_____

(donations of \$10 or more will receive a tax receipt)

I'd like to become a Friend of Ploughshares and give a monthly pre-authorized debit donation, please send me an application form:

I'd like to receive the monthly newsletter by:

Email (recommended) Mail (with \$35 donation)

Prefer to mail your letters?

Postage-free to:

House of Commons, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6

Mailed (with postage) to:

Jonathan Tan, Senior Policy Officer
Non-Proliferation and Disarmament
Fax: 613-944-1835

125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0G2

