

**PROJECT
PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY**

Peace News

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2011



Project Ploughshares Public Meeting
Wednesday February 9, 2011—7:30 P.M.
Parkdale United Church Boardroom
2919—8 Avenue N.W.

Please join us for our first public meeting of 2011! Our new Program Director, Karen Huggins, will be presenting on **PEACE AND CONSUMERISM**. She will discuss the impacts of over-consumption on us and on the Global South, the peacelessness that often results and what we can do to stop this cycle. Karen has conducted focus groups and workshops on this topic, the subject of her Master's thesis.

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

Volunteer for Peace...
You Can Help Us Make a Difference!



Peace



Love



Volunteer

Volunteering and becoming a part of **Project Ploughshares Calgary** affords you the opportunity to give back to your community in a very positive way. Develop a sense of personal fulfillment by working with us towards building a Culture of Peace and working with people who are committed to developing a world in which sustainable peace is possible! If you are interested in exploring the possibilities available at Project Ploughshares Calgary, contact Karen at 403-270-7366 or e-mail: office@ploughsharescalgary.ca.



Project Ploughshares proudly announces that its co-founder and former Executive Director Ernie Regehr, is the 26th laureate of the Pearson Peace Medal. He received this United Nations Association award on January 21st from the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada. Ernie now works as Research Fellow of the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, Conrad Grebel University College, University of Waterloo, Fellow of the Simons Foundation, Vancouver, and writes weekly analyses of peace issues which are posted at disarmingconflict.ca.

Ploughshares Calgary News

Welcome!

Project Ploughshares warmly welcomes our new Program Director. Karen Huggins has devoted her life to working for peace and holds a Master's degree in Peace Education from the U.N.-mandated Universidad para la Paz based in San Jose, Costa Rica. She has strong connections to the Consortium for Peace Studies at U of C as well as other organizations and enjoys research. We look forward to enjoying her energy and enthusiasm!

Good-bye...and many thanks!

A big thank you to Diane Janzen, our former Program Director, for her dedication and excellent work over the past 3 years. Project Ploughshares would like to express our gratitude to Diane for her commitment to peace work, and wish her all the best in her new adventure. Following is a message from Diane:

Dear Ploughshares friends,

A Happy New Year to all of you! As you might recall I left my position as program director of Ploughshares Calgary and have passed on the hat to Karen Huggins who is very capable and enthusiastic about working on peace education in Calgary. I am going to be heading back to university for a Masters in Peace Studies.

During my three years as program director for Ploughshares Calgary I learned a lot! It was great to celebrate with the the Calgary Peace Pole Committee and Ploughshares supporters when Calgary's Peace Pole was unveiled in 2009. Through that project I came to know many people from various community and faith groups who are working so hard to make Calgary and the world better for all. I hope that the connections made between Ploughshares and both the Peace Pole groups and the Peace Fair groups continues.

I also learned quite a bit from the Ploughshares national office research and project work on a variety of topics from nuclear weapons, to small arms, to the connections between peacebuilding and development. Ploughshares Calgary has been working on the issue of nuclear weapons since the local chapter was founded and the steadfast persistence is remarkable!

Before I got involved with Ploughshares Calgary my peace work was mostly international, so I very much appreciated the opportunity to work in this field in my home community. I hope that the contributions I made were positive and wish the staff and board of Ploughshares Calgary all the best in the coming years.

I hope that each of you continue to be involved with and support the peace work of Ploughshares Calgary in any way that you can!

Peace, Diane Janzen

Financial Update

Project Ploughshares Calgary thanks all our supporters who donated in 2010. We applaud those who contributed towards individual donation totals of \$1410 in November and \$1987.50 in December, as well as organization donation totals of \$1050 in November and \$250 in December, bringing us to breaking even for the year. We made it! Many, many thanks. We're looking for a sponsor to buy us a new computer, and an updated version of Office Professional. Can you help in any way? The old computer is extremely slow and idiosyncratic.

Peace Fair Update

December's Peace Fair was very successful, and brought in \$4000. Thanks to our many vendors and the hard work of the staff, executive and volunteers for making this annual event a winning enterprise for all involved. We would like to extend a very special thank you to all the volunteers who dedicated their time and energy to make the Peace Fair a hit among holiday shoppers and supporters once again: Ginni Betty, Alice Fedosoff, Beth Workman, Karen Dickson, Larry Kennard Maria Hopkins, Marie Collins, Kathleen Hatfield, Marion Jorgenson, Lee Wertzler, Jackie, Veronica Kanaszyc, Margaret Fitch, Lynn Nugent, Sandra Wezzelenchuk, Jean Reid, Mary Clark, Bill Dickson, Ric Collier, Phil Greenway, Lena Osman, Bruce Clark, the True Vision Ghana volunteers, and Cards for a Cure volunteers and especially our hard working chairperson, Shahin Bhura! Without the support of our volunteers, it would be impossible to run the Peace Fair. The help of many hands make the job possible!

Non-proliferation meets non-partisanship - (Exciting News)

Douglas Roche - Excerpted from Embassy, December 15, 2010, p. 15 editor@embassymag.ca

Hansard recorded the event in the House of Commons under "Routine Proceedings," but there was nothing routine about it. For the first time in the history of Canada's Parliament, both the House of Commons and Senate united in a motion calling on the Canadian government to engage in negotiations for a legal ban on all nuclear weapons.

At 4.50 p.m. on Dec. 7, NDP MP Bill Siksay sought the unanimous consent of the House for a five-part motion, which had at its heart: "encourage the Government of Canada to engage in negotiations for a Nuclear Weapons Convention as proposed by the United Nations Secretary-General." In less than 30 seconds, the motion was adopted.

On June 2, the Senate had unanimously adopted the same motion, introduced in that body by Conservative Senator Hugh Segal, and sent it to the House for similar action. Joint motions in both chambers occur from time to time, but never has there been one that so substantively addressed one of the world's overarching problems: how to get rid of all 22,600 nuclear weapons still in existence.

The idea is strongly supported by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, the European Parliament and Mayors for Peace, which includes 4,000 mayors around the world. Three-quarters of the states at the UN have already voted for negotiations to commence, but the nuclear powers and Western states have largely been opposed.

Thomson, who enlisted the aid of Nobel laureate John Polanyi and myself, was surprised at the strong support from the Order of Canada recipients. Soon he had 100 signatures, then it jumped to 200, and early in 2010, the number soared above 500. Celebrities galore joined: Jean Vanier, Karen Kain, John Turner, Margot Franssen, Michel Bastarache, Margaret Atwood, Roméo Dallaire, Pierre Jeannot, Colette Boky, Norman Jewison, Avie Bennett, Alex Colville, Frédéric Back, Christopher Plummer, Alanis Obamsawin, Jock Murray, Angela Hewitt, A.J. Diamond, Liona Boyd.

Canada so far has been sluggish in nuclear disarmament work and has never yet voted at the UN for negotiations on a legal ban on nuclear weapons to begin. The joint motion, which also urged a major Canadian diplomatic initiative, has at least got the government's attention. An expert seminar in Ottawa next spring, led by the nuclear abolitionist leader Bev Delong, will provide the government with substantive ideas for progress.

The Commons-Senate joint action lays the groundwork for a national debate. There are still many obstacles to overcome on the road to zero nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons are about power, and governments have never given up that which they perceive as giving them strength. The powerful military-industrial complexes are still trading on a fear that has been driven into the public.

Despite these obstacles, the tide is turning. Thanks to Murray Thomson, who is both a visionary and an impresario, the abolition of nuclear weapons is on the central stage in Ottawa.

Excerpts from the Winter 2010 edition of *The Ploughshares Monitor*

***The Many Faces of War* by Ernie Regehr.**

This is an excellent piece on the changing nature of conflict and the difficulties inherent in defining contemporary wars. Regehr details the three characteristics of war that are used by the annual **Ploughshares Armed Conflicts Report**, and additionally speaks to the types of war: international or interstate war as well as three overlapping types of intrastate wars. This article ends with an impassioned statement of our collective responsibility for war. To read the article in its entirety, please see: www.ploughshares.ca

Invest in Peace—A Closing Statement by 80 leaders of the world's religious and faith-based organizations issued prior to the G8 Summit in Muskoka.

This statement is a call for the end of military spending, a halt to the arms race, as well as "the establishment of transparent and effective dialogue mechanisms between international organizations and faith communities that take advantage of the peace-making potential of religion." For the full statement, please go to: www.faithchallengeg8.com

A thought on media coverage on the Tucson, Arizona tragedy: *All violence is 'senseless'* by Bill Shein

The full article can be viewed at: <http://www.reasongonemad.com/columns/2011/1/10/all-violence-is-senseless.htm>

President Obama said "this senseless and terrible act of violence has no place in a free society." Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid noted that "acts of senseless violence such as this one affect us all." Search the Internet for news stories about Tucson containing "senseless violence" and you'll find thousands.

It is a telling phrase -- all the more so because it goes unquestioned. In truth, there's no need to modify the word "violence" with a descriptive adjective. To say this attack was "senseless violence" is to suggest that sometimes violence makes perfect sense. Which it doesn't. The pain and anguish of this awful tragedy should remind us that *all* violence is senseless.



Project Ploughshares Calgary

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Special thanks to Karen Huggins, Larry Kennard and Sally Hodges for their work writing and editing this issue of the newsletter.

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)

Calgary Peace Events

Monday January 31, 2011, 5:30-7:30 P.M.
Murray Fraser Hall, Room 2370, U f C
PeaceTalk: *The Peace Process is Dead: Now What?*
Re-Envisioning Possible Ways Forward in the Israel-Palestine Impasse

Panelists: Rabbi Howard Voss-Altman, Spiritual Leader of the Reform B'Nai Tikvah Jewish Temple; Shadi Abuid, National Secretary, Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights; Richelle Wiseman, Executive Director, Centre for Faith and the Media. This is a free event, but please **RSVP to acirc@ucalgary.ca**
Hosts: Consortium for Peace Studies, University of Calgary and the Alberta Civil Liberties Research Centre

Friday February 4, 2011, 4:00pm - 5:00pm
Higher Ground Cafe in Kensington
Peace Bridge brainstorming meeting



Come brainstorm ideas for a citizen-initiated celebration of the Peace Bridge when it opens in the spring! Any Calgarians who walk, cycle, rollerblade, skateboard, and support alternative human-powered transportation should come out to celebrate the Peace Bridge as a much-needed piece of the Bow River pathways infrastructure, as well as an artistic landmark and a Great Public Space. And the fact that it is designated as the Peace Bridge is a great incentive for Calgary's peace community to take part in this celebration!

Thursday March 10th, 2011, 5:30 P.M.
Calgary Golf and Country Club
Consortium for Peace Studies Peace Prize Dinner

This year's annual Peace Prize award will go the Vandana Shiva, renowned environmentalist activist, philosopher, distinguished physicist and author of several books. Mayor Naheed Nenshi will be presenting this award to Dr. Shiva, and will also speak to the attendees about Calgary's commitment to global peace. This prize, established in 2006 by the Consortium for Peace Studies, recognizes outstanding individuals from the global community whose work has made the world a safer and less violent place. Dr. Shiva is being honoured for her commitment to social justice, empowerment of women in developing countries, her advocacy of human rights of small farming communities and her scientific analysis of environmental sustainability. For ore information or to purchase tickets to this event, please contact Saima Jamal at 403-220-2136 or by e-mail at peaceuc@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the website and purchase tickets on-line: www.ucalgary.ca/peacestudies/

