

PROJECT
PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY

Peace News

APRIL 2012



We are located:

Parkdale United
Church
2919 8th Ave NW
T2N 1C8

403-270-7366

Office hours:

Mon Tues & Thurs
10:30 am - 3 pm

Wed 2 - 6 pm



Project Ploughshares Spring Workshop

Can Peace Be Green? Using Nonviolence to Support the Earth

Friday April 13th, 7:00 - 9:00 pm (Auditorium)

Saturday April 14th, 9:00 am - 3:30 pm (Labyrinth)

Parkdale United Church, 2919 - 8 Avenue NW

Mining in Peru, famine in Ethiopia, water rights in India... globally, these events have an environmentally-related root cause. In the face of this increase of tensions, are our traditional nonviolent protest tactics effective in protecting the earth and its peoples?

Friday evening from 7 - 9: speeches and dialogue between activist Very Rev. Bill Phipps and Calgary author Chris Turner. They will give an overview of environmental conflicts and some nonviolent responses to such conflicts, and bring forward realistic, sustainable *alternatives* to an economy based on consumerism and non-renewable resources.

Saturday's workshop 9 am - 3:45 pm: Deborah Sword of Conflict Competence and the Very Rev. Bill Phipps examine stories of environmental conflict and guide us to look at traditional nonviolent strategies, discussing how these are or are not relevant. Participants will develop new strategies that are relevant to the issues they currently work with.

All speakers bring a wealth of experience to the area of environmental issues

Registration: Early bird fee \$40/After April 1 \$45/Student and low income \$15

Friday Evening Only - \$15 or \$10 student/low income

For more information:

Call 403-270-7366 or email office@ploughsharescalgary.ca

Website: www.ploughsharescalgary.ca



May Monthly Presentation

Wednesday May 9, 2012, 7:30 pm

Parkdale United Church Conference Room

The Achuar and Nonviolent Resistance

Join us to watch the documentary 'Chumpi', which focuses on the lives of three generations of the Achuar people who have lived in peace with the natural environment for millennia. The land and its resources are totally integrated into the social, economic and emotional worlds of the Achuar, and are fundamental to their physical and spiritual well-being. Mike Byerley, Calgary's liaison for Amazon Watch, will be on hand to lead a discussion about the Achuar after the film.

Ploughshares Calgary News

Volunteers Needed!

- ◆ Please watch your inboxes for info on volunteer opportunities with Project Ploughshares Calgary. We are developing a listing of upcoming possibilities and would love to have you on board!



Please email Karen at office@ploughsharescalgary.ca or phone her at [403-270-7366](tel:403-270-7366).

Donations

We received \$715 from individuals during the month of February. From organizations, we have received \$400. Thanks so much to all of you who continue to give to Project Ploughshares on a regular basis. Your support is appreciated, and helps us to maintain our programming in developing a Culture of Peace!



Welcome!



Project Ploughshares and Parkdale United Church have a new tenant! We'd like to welcome **Janyce Konkin** of **Initiatives of Change**, our new office partner! **Initiatives of Change** is an international organization that works toward peaceful relationships - within ourselves, our communities, and globally. We are happy to have Janyce and her organization on board, and look forward to future collaborations!

Bookshelf Needed!

Does anyone happen to have an Ikea Billy-type bookcase or similar (tall) that you'd like to donate to Project Ploughshares? Our books and magazines keep growing, but our capacity to shelve them has not! Please let Karen know if you have an extra one in your basement or garage, and we will put it to very good use!



SPOLUMBO'S Sausages for Peace in May!



We'll be taking orders again for Spolumbo's sausage as our spring fundraiser. Pick will be in mid-June. See May newsletter for all the details and get ready for summer grilling!



Calgary Peace Prize Winner, Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish, the Gaza Doctor Author of "I Shall Not Hate" March 8, 2012 at the Calgary Country Club

The 2012 Calgary Peace Prize recipient presented a truly inspiring talk at the 5th Annual Peace Prize dinner, organized and hosted by the Consortium for Peace Studies at the University of Calgary. Dr. Abuelaish began by commenting that he wished he could share this award with his wife and daughters. In September of 2008, he lost his wife to leukemia. A few short months later, on January 16, 2009, 3 of his daughters and a niece were killed when an Israeli shell hit their bedroom. Despite these tragedies, Dr. Abuelaish determined not to be a victim of hatred. He feels that hate is destructive and will only cause more violence and heartache.

His talk was full of hope for humankind—he spoke of the need to free ourselves from the sense of 'otherness', to get to know people, connect with people, and to learn about their lives, rather than making judgements on the basis of 'difference'. He said that we were all born free, therefore no one should be killed nor need to pay for their own freedom.

He also spoke about the importance of dreaming, that even though people may be imprisoned, no one can stop another from dreaming. His own dream was achieved by becoming a doctors, something that he dreamed about as a child. He believes wholeheartedly that medicine has one face and one culture - human - and the practicing of medicine is a means of achieving peace.

Dr. Abuelaish stressed the importance of women as the centre of society. He believes in investing in girls' education, and has started a Canadian charity called "Daughters for Life" that gives scholarship to girls throughout the Middle East. He mentioned that healthy, educated women will raise healthy children for a healthy society, and that women are our biggest hope.

"You must have hope and have faith—but hope and faith without action have no meaning. We must work for a free, bright future for our children."



Calgary Peace Run - A collaborative event organized by:

- ◆ Project Ploughshares Calgary
- ◆ The Consortium for Peace Studies, University of Calgary
- ◆ cdpeace in Makeni, Sierra Leone.

Sunday September 23, 2012

Race Starts at the Running Room in Eau Claire Market

8:30 am Zumba Warm-up / 9:00 am Race Start

5K and 10K run or walk—all timed events

All proceeds from this race will go to support the programs of the three organizations above.

We're looking for sponsors for various expenses related to putting on this race. Below you'll see several items listed - we are looking for sponsors for each budget item, and encourage you to choose the item that best fits into your budget. Any and all donations for this event gratefully accepted!

You can also sign up to run or walk in the event by registering at www.runningroom.com. We also encourage participants to ask their friends and family to sponsor their efforts in running or walking to make Calgary an innovative forerunner in the quest for peaceful solutions to some of the world's problems.

Calgary Peace Run

September 23, 2012

Small Budget Items

City License	26.00
Parks License	182.00
Warm Up	200.00
Sound System Rental	100.00
Prizes - medals	700.00
Volunteer T-Shirts	600.00
Table Rentals	200.00

Larger Budget Items

Advertising	2,500.00
Food/Drinks	2,500.00
Graphic Design	2,000.00
Insurance	2,000.00
Promotion (banners, etc)	3,000.00
Timing	3,000.00

TOTAL

\$17,008.00

Netanyahu, Harper threaten Iran

By Dennis Gruending
March 8, 2012

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was in Ottawa recently promoting a pre-emptive military attack upon Iran. He visited with his friend and close ally Stephen Harper prior to going to Washington in an attempt to pressure President Obama into supporting his doomsday scenario. Contenders for the Republican nomination were only too happy to beat the same war drum. In Canada, Mr. Harper earlier had obligingly gone out of his way to tell journalists that Iran was the largest single threat to the world's future and security.



Mr. Douglas Roche and Ernie Regehr

Harper said he had "watched and listened to what the leadership in the Iran regime says, and it frightens me." Our bold warrior would do well to heed the words and actions of Douglas Roche, Murray Thomson and Ernie Regehr. I'll get back to their plan in a minute. They are wiser by far than our in-temperate leaders.

Attack Iran

Netanyahu, along with his Conservative and Republican cheerleaders, wants to attack Iran because they say it is developing a capacity to build nuclear weapons. There have already been several assassinations carried out on Iranian scientists working in the nuclear program. The obvious perpetrator is Israel and that country has not even bothered to categorically deny its involvement – preferring to warn of more to come. Think, for a moment, of what the response would be if Israeli, American or Canadian scientists were assassinated on their home soil.

False claims

Is Iran developing nuclear weapons as is claimed by the Israelis and Mr. Harper? It may be, and if so that is, indeed, cause for alarm. But we should by now be wary of false claims. George W. Bush, Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld claimed to have proof that Iraq was developing nuclear weapons as well and they used that information to launch a ruinous war in 2003. Hans Blix and other inspectors from the [International Atomic Energy Agency](#) were on the ground in Iraq, where they found nothing. They begged for more time to carry out their inspections but were ridiculed by the Bush administration. The claims made by Bush, Cheney and Rumsfeld turned out to be bald-faced lies. In an international system based on justice rather than on the power that accrues to victors, one or all of these gentlemen might today be in The Hague facing accusations of being war criminals.

20,000 weapons

Let us assume that Iran is on a path toward producing a nuclear weapon. If so, that should be opposed – and is – through diplomatic pressure and an economic boycott that is reportedly biting deeply. But let's provide some context here. The [Federation of American Scientists](#) says there are almost 20,000 nuclear weapons in the world. [Scott Taylor](#) a former Canadian soldier who writes knowledgeably on military affairs, says, "In an international context, the nuclear-armed community, led by the U.S., has a collective arsenal capable of wiping out the entire planet several times over."

There are nine countries that possess nuclear weapons, including Israel, which has an estimated 200 nuclear warheads and the missile systems with which to deliver them. Mr. Netanyahu never talks about that and refuses to even discuss it. Surely a nuclear Israel must frighten its neighbours in the Middle East and destabilize the region.

A world divided

Debbie Grisdale of Ottawa, who serves on the board for the ecumenical peace group Project Ploughshares, says, "Currently the world is divided into countries that can have nuclear weapons — and think that it is their right to possess them — and those countries that cannot have them. Why is it okay for some countries to have them and others not? The complete elimination of nuclear weapons, at the very least a treaty banning them – would mean that is not okay for any country to have nuclear weapons. The world has a treaty banning chemical and one banning biological weapons – why not nuclear weapons?"

Sling shot vs machine guns

Let us again assume that Iran is on the path to developing a weapon. what does that mean in perspective? Here is Scott Taylor's analysis: "Should Iran someday soon produce enough enriched uranium to create one nuclear warhead, and someday soon acquire a missile delivery system with intercontinental capability, it would then possess a single threat to international targets, including North America.

"It is like a showdown between a solitary gunman holding a single-shot pistol against a heavily armed gang toting machine guns. In such a case, it would be suicidal for Iran to initiate hostilities."

Taylor says that when this scenario was pointed out to Prime Minister Harper it did nothing to change his analysis. "I'm not sure that would dissuade them," Harper reportedly said. "We're dealing with a fanatical and dangerous regime."

In other words, we are the good guys. They are the fanatics. Or at John Baird, the foreign affairs minister, said in his recent visit to Israel – they are the black hats and we are the white hats.

Thankfully, President Obama is not accepting these simplistic truisms as analysis. At a news conference during Netanyahu's visit to Washington, Obama warned against the "loose talk of war" and talked of the need to give diplomacy a chance. But it is an election year, and he is being derided as a wimp and prodded into action by Republican warmongers and the pro-Israel lobby.

Peace elders

I spoke above of three wise elders. They are Murray Thomson of Ottawa, Ernie Regehr of Waterloo and Douglas Roche of Edmonton. All three are eminent citizens and recipients of the Order of Canada, our most distinguished award for public service. They have convinced [552 recipients of the Order to sign a letter](#) calling on the Canadian government to take the lead in urging international negotiations to achieve a Nuclear Weapons Convention – a verifiable treaty on the prohibition and elimination of those weapons. Some of their fellow Order of Canada recipients supporting this call include Margaret Atwood, Roméo Dallaire, Stephen Lewis, David Suzuki and Jean Vanier.

These are dangerous times. While our Prime Minister and Israel's talk about attacking Iran, Thomson, Roche and Regehr are on another track – they say get rid of nuclear weapons altogether. They are the "white hats" as far as I am concerned.

Contact a member

You can check the list of those members of the Order of Canada who have signed on to the proposal by clicking [HERE](#). If you know any OC members who have not yet signed, please urge them to do so.

Canadian-made arms used in Saudi crackdown on anti-government protests in neighbouring Bahrain

<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/Canadian+made+arms+used+crackdown/6203219/story.html>

Vancouver Sun, February 24, 2012

By Lee Berthiaume, Postmedia News

Canadian arms companies were given free rein last year as the federal government tripled the amount of military weapons and ammunition licensed for export to foreign countries to more than \$12 billion. The largest benefactor at \$4 billion was Saudi Arabia, which is believed to have used Canadian-made armoured vehicles to help put down anti-government protests in neighbouring Bahrain during the early days of the Arab Spring.

The government figures, tabled in the House of Commons a few weeks ago, do not say exactly what Canadian-made arms the government approved for export or how much was actually delivered. But the total in government-approved arms export licences for Saudi Arabia was more than 100 times the \$35 million approved in 2010.



The Middle Eastern kingdom also has quietly purchased hundreds of LAV-3s armoured vehicles from General Dynamics Land Systems in London, Ont., over the years and was expected to receive more than 700 last year. The LAV-3s are synonymous in Canada with this country's combat mission to Afghanistan, where the wheeled, armoured vehicles earned their stripes as the military's main workhorse. Video and photos shot by protesters and media outlets in March 2011 showed Saudi troops using LAV-3s to suppress the protests.

In announcing this past June that General Dynamics Land Systems had been awarded a contract to provide up to 82 more LAV-3s to Saudi Arabia, the U.S. Defense Co-operation Agency wrote the deal would "serve to make a key strategic partner - more capable of defeating those who would threaten regional stability and less reliant on the deployment of U.S. forces to maintain or restore stability in the Middle East."

Saudi Arabia also has a poor human-rights record, with laws discriminating against women and religious minorities as well as bans on public protests and free speech. "Saudi Arabia responded with unflinching repression to demands by citizens for greater democracy in the wake of the pro-democracy Arab Spring movements," reads a recent Human Rights Watch report.

The United Kingdom and Australia were second and third after Saudi Arabia getting weapons and ammunition at \$3.5 billion and \$1 billion, respectively. The government also approved \$58 million in arms exports to Afghanistan - bringing the total since 2006 to more than \$500 million - as well as \$20 million to Egypt, \$60 million to Jamaica and \$149 million to South Africa.

The figures do not include exports to Canada's largest arms customer, the U.S., because arms companies do not require licences for that trade. The government also has approved more than \$44 billion in so-called "dual-use" exports to China, which include any goods or technology that can be used for both peaceful and military purposes. This is believed to be primarily uranium and other nuclear-related products.

Arms control activist Ken Epps said that while the Conservative government has ended the practice of tabling annual reports on Canadian arms sales, the country has consistently ranked among the top 15 countries, and often breaks into the top 10. But Canada has an obligation to ensure it doesn't sell arms to countries with poor human-rights records, he said, or governments that will use the weapons against civilians.

"The LAV-3 and other similar vehicles that Canada has supplied to the Saudi Arabian National Guard are exactly the kind of equipment that would be used to put down demonstrations and used against civilian populations," he said. "I think this is an example of where economic expediency has overridden the guidelines."



Ken Epps, Project Ploughshares



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

Calgary Peace Events

Trustbuilding Leadership Workshop

Saturday, March 31, 2012

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., University of Calgary, Room PFB 4251

Charge: \$20.00

[Click here](#) to register

Light Refreshments Provided ~ Certificate of Participation Upon Completion

The Trustbuilding Leadership Workshop is being offered through collaboration between the Consortium for Peace Studies at the University of Calgary and the international NGO Initiatives of Change. This is an informative workshop that will help students to understand the importance of trust in healthy, productive relationships in their own lives and in the broader community context. It is a half-day interactive workshop using information-sharing and activities proven effective over 20 years of international practice. It introduces the concept and importance of honest conversation in extending and receiving trust. The Workshop is being facilitated by Janyce Konkin, MA in Peace and Conflict Studies, and an alumnus of The University of Calgary, 2006 with a BA in Communications and Culture.



How I got my climate conscience: A personal reflection on the Durban climate negotiations

Wednesday, April 4th 2012, 7-9pm

Professional Faculties Building 4259

University of Calgary



COP17/CMP7
UNITED NATIONS
CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE 2011
DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA

The Durban climate talks saw nations around the world struggling to agree on how to prevent catastrophic climate changes. In overtime, they 'agreed to agree' on a new global agreement to be implemented in 2020. *What happens now? Do we accept rising emissions for the next nine years and then scramble thereafter to limit these catastrophic impacts before our time runs out? What can you do to impact climate change and why should you care?* Join us as Firyal Mohamed, recent U of C graduate, Consortium of Peace Studies member and official observer at COP17, shares a moving and personal reflection on the climate negotiations and her ideas on how to engage you in our path to sustainability. **An interactive dialogue will follow with panelists from industry, academia and research.** This event is brought to you by the Consortium for Peace Studies, Initiatives of Change and the Alberta Civil Liberties Research Centre. **THIS IS A FREE PUBLIC EVENT**



April 13th - Auction in Support of the Achuar delegation from the Peruvian Amazon

7:30 pm at 144 - 34 A Street NW

This event will support the upcoming visit of the Achuar to Canada. Auction items include a guitar signed by Willie Nelson, a Shane Haltman original painting, and more! Vi-An Diep and the Latin American

Cultural Dancers will be performing. If you're unable to attend, consider a donation to the auction!

May 2nd - Public Event in Support of the Achuar people

Details of this event will be available soon. Visit: amazonwatch/achuar to learn more about the Achuar and the Amazon. You can also check Facebook - facebook.com/canada4achuar

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 2012 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)