

PROJECT  
PLOUGHSHARES  
CALGARY

# Peace News

MARCH 2015



We are located:

Parkdale United  
Church  
2919 8<sup>th</sup> Ave NW  
T2N 1C8

403-270-7366

Office hours:

Mon Tues & Wed  
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

A Project Ploughshares Peace Education Presentation

## Women and Peacebuilding: Organizing for Social Change



Wednesday March 11, 2015, 7:00 – 8:30 PM  
Parkdale United Church Conference Room  
2919 – 8 Avenue NW

**Ronnie Joy Leah, PhD., Women in Black, Social Activist,  
Community Organizer  
&**

**Devan Kublik, Women4Women Afghanistan, Calgary Chapter Chair**

- ~ What generates effective peacebuilding
- ~ Women organizing for social change
- ~ Challenges faced in their peace work



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# Ploughshares News



## From the Heart: Compassion & Community Wednesday February 11, 2015

At the February Project Ploughshares public meeting we heard from Swati Fernando M.A., social worker and Police Commander David Kotowski. Swati shared her personal learning about having to have boundaries in her work with immigrants but still very much caring about her clients and assisting them with legal, immigration, social assistance, counselling and abuse matters. She has witnessed many cases of men being abusive to their wives, and commented that she has spoken to Immigration Canada many times, asking them to include questions about attitudes towards women in their screening of immigrants. Three years ago Swati started a group in Calgary to help women in abusive relationships. After being refused meeting space in their own place of worship, she arranged for the group to meet regularly in a police station meeting room. The unexpected benefit of this is that the women's husbands are behaving much better. Swati is a woman who gets things done.

Comm. Kotowski brought a very human touch to our view of policing. He said most officers join in order to serve (Victor Frankl's "Man's Search for Meaning"). His view of policing is that he is making society safe so that the next musician or scientist or parent can freely follow their gifts or purpose. The police badge sometimes also gives the officer the privilege of saving someone's life, but it brings 'huge discrimination' on occasion. It is also very traumatic when such things as murder or rape are involved. Calgary is the 13<sup>th</sup> largest police organization in North America. The Calgary force has emphasized 'the human factor' for many years, with training in immigrant issues, multiculturalism, and many other areas. "Nothing great is accomplished without passion," he said.

Comm. Kotowski had some comments on our society. He believes most citizens are kind – there are very few socio-paths but there are some. Sometimes the situations he finds in Calgary are people who are simply needing a friend. In terms of stereo-typing he has met very poor people who are exceptionally bright, and he has arrested doctors. In terms of immigrants who abuse women because they don't believe women are equal, Comm. Kotowski said that enclaves of such individuals are not a good idea, and that we must look seriously at the Charter, speak up and apply it.



## 2020 Vision for Humanity Symposium Friday March 27 - Sunday March 29, 2015 Parkdale United Church

The 2020 Vision for Humanity is an independent network of Calgarians working for the abolition of nuclear weapons and for a profound change in the conditions that lead human beings to produce such weapons. We promote awareness of the challenges to human security worldwide, and how we can meet those challenges.

This year's Symposium is co-chaired by Dr. Arthur Clark and Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish, a Palestinian physician and an internationally recognized human rights and inspirational peace activist.

Our keynote speaker, Ernie Regehr, OC is a Canadian peace researcher and expert in security and disarmament. The title of his address is "Fighting to Lose: The Limits of Military Force". He co-founded Project Ploughshares, with Murray Thomson in 1976 and served as its Executive Director for thirty years.

Dr. Clark has been active in public affairs since the time of the 1990-91 crisis involving Iraq. His emphasis has been on the necessity of responsible global citizenship and on the failure of governments to uphold international law as a major factor jeopardizing human security.

Dr. Abuelaish was the first Palestinian doctor to receive an appointment in Medicine at an Israeli hospital. Dr. Abuelaish's internationally best-selling book, *I Shall Not Hate: A Gaza Doctor's Journey on the Road to Peace and Human Dignity*, has become a testament to his commitment to forgiveness as the solution to conflict and the catalyst towards peace.

We encourage you to look at the website [here](#) for more information. Click [here](#) to purchase your tickets.

## Upcoming Peace Education Presentations

Parkdale United Church, 2919 - 8 Avenue NW. 7 - 8:30 PM



### Wednesday May 13, 2015 - Film Night & Discussion.

#### Pray the Devil Back to Hell.

*Pray the Devil Back to Hell* chronicles the remarkable story of the courageous Liberian women who came together to end a bloody civil war and bring peace to their shattered country. A story of sacrifice, unity and transcendence, *Pray the Devil Back to Hell* honors the strength and perseverance of the women of Liberia. Inspiring, uplifting, and most of all motivating, it is a compelling testimony of how grassroots activism can alter the history of nations.

### Wednesday June 10, 2015 - Ploughshares AGM

Make a Difference!  
**DONATE**

In planning your yearly giving, we are hoping that you will remember your local Peace Education Organization!

The month of February saw \$ 80\_\_\_ in donations from individuals, and \$1150 from organizations. We need your help to maintain some of the best peace education programs and activities in the city! Thanks so much for your consideration of Project Ploughshares Calgary.



If you or someone you know would be interested in being on our Organizing Team for Ploughshares annual spring workshop, please contact Karen at 403-270-7366 or email her at [office@ploughsharescalgary.ca](mailto:office@ploughsharescalgary.ca). This year's workshop is all about youth engagement in peacebuilding, so youth input is essential.



#### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

for this annual fundraising event featuring locally-made Spolumbos sausage. This year's fundraiser will be held during the month of May. If you would like a great volunteer opportunity that involves limited time and meeting lots of great people, this is the job for you! If interested, please call Karen at 403-270-7366 or email of-[fice@ploughsharescalgary.ca](mailto:office@ploughsharescalgary.ca)



### Project Ploughshares & Initiatives of Change

**Spring Workshop**  
**Saturday April 25, 2015**  
**9:30 - 4:00 PM**  
**Location TBA**

#### Youth **PEACING IT TOGETHER** Calgary

Come out and learn what Calgary youth are already doing in their communities, and what kinds of peace projects they'd like to initiate themselves. The day will include a youth panel discussion, Theatre of the Oppressed, and other exciting ventures!

This year's workshop is a collaborative effort between Project Ploughshares Calgary and Initiatives of Change.

PEACE  
NOT WAR  
GENEROSITY  
NOT GREED  
EMPATHY  
NOT HATE  
CREATIVITY  
NOT DESTRUCTION  
EVERYBODY  
NOT JUST US

## Upcoming Calgary Peace Events

**Harmony Café**  
**Sun. April 12th, Noon - 4:00 PM**  
**CommunityWise, 223 - 12 Avenue SW**

Delicious vegetarian food, important dialogue, amazing people!  
 Don't miss this opportunity!  
 Bring the whole family for an afternoon of sharing, friendship,  
 good music and children's activities.



Please visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/events/395093220643348/> for more info.

A collaborative program: Centre for Harmonious Coexistence, Initiatives of Change, Project Ploughshares, Intercultural Dialogue Institute, and the Calgary Centre for Global Community



**Calgary Centre for Global Community and the Consortium for Peace Studies at the University of Calgary are offering these seminars with the goal of introducing participants to basic principles of peace and global citizenship.**

### Seminar Topics & Dates:

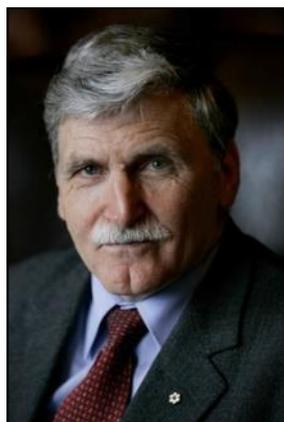
**Indigenous Rights – Stories & Themes from Around the World** - Thursday March 26, 2015

**Building a Community Response to Climate Change** - Thursday April 30, 2015

**Social Activism Across Borders** - Thursday May 28, 2015

**Social Entrepreneurship to Transform Culture, Economy and the Environment** - Thursday June 25, 2015

For more info and to register, please go to <http://www.calgarycgc.org/seminars-in-peace--global-citizenship.html>



### **2015 Calgary Peace Prize Gala Event** **Lieutenant-General The Honourable Roméo Dallaire** **Thursday April 9, 2015 - Magnolia Banquet Hall**

Roméo Dallaire is a retired lieutenant-general, former Senator, and celebrated humanitarian. Lieutenant General (LGen) Dallaire is President of the Lieutenant-General Roméo Dallaire Foundation; founder of The Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative, an organization aimed at eradicating the use of child soldiers; an outspoken advocate for human rights, particularly war-affected children, women, the Canadian First Nations, and military veterans; and a respected champion of genocide prevention initiatives, the Responsibility to Protect doctrine, and nuclear non-proliferation, as well as a best-selling author.

For more information about and to purchase tickets for this event, please click [here](#).



## Air power becoming the new gunboat diplomacy

By Ernie Regehr, January 14, 2015

<http://disarmingconflict.ca/2015/01/14/air-power-becoming-the-new-gunboat-diplomacy/#more-1099>

***Fighter aircraft probing air defences, expanded surveillance and reconnaissance missions, extended long-range nuclear bomber patrols – they are all part of the new lingua franca of east-west diplomacy.***

“East-West relations” is itself once more a term of art in global affairs as Moscow, Washington, and Brussels take up their quarrels and rely increasingly on military gestures to do the talking for them. The ostensible point is to communicate strength and resolve, but there is an unavoidable subtext of impotence in posing threats you know you can’t ever carry out.

Military symbolism is now literally in full flight. In the dominant western narrative, Russian flights are provocative and dangerous; in the east it’s the reverse, with NATO the provocateur. From Europe to the Arctic to North America, over land and sea, air power diplomacy has taken centre stage.

Russian fighters buzz Canadian frigates in the Black Sea and pose dangers to civilian air traffic over the Baltic Sea. Russian strategic bombers patrol the Beaufort Sea, and NORAD jet fighters are scrambled on cue. US reconnaissance aircraft patrol the Baltic Sea and Baltic States in range of Russian borders, jumping from 22 such flights in 2013 to 141 in 2014 according to Russian Air Force officials. NATO flights near the border of Belarus and near Russia’s Kaliningrad region are said to have doubled over the past year, exceeding 3000 in 2014.

In the 1990s a US Naval War College paper hyped air power as “the new gunboat diplomacy,” arguing it offered greater deployment speed and flexibility and a more credible threat inasmuch as the risk of casualties is kept low for any state wielding the air power. “Gunboat” or any kind of military “diplomacy” is basically the threat, or use, of limited military power in a situation other than war. Some threats are latent – like peacetime naval deployments to show the flag, routine strategic bomber patrols, or, in the context of current east-west tensions, the steady eastward expansion of NATO. Others are more immediate and active – like menacing fighter aircraft flights designed, not to directly engage, but to intimidate an adversary into changing behavior in the context of a particular crisis.

The point of current “air power diplomacy” is to communicate resolve and unwavering commitment to keeping Europe’s borders inviolable and the obsolete notion of protecting spheres of influence. There may be some realist logic to ostentatious fighter aircraft maneuvers when the context is a major imbalance of power – when the state threatening the air power can be fully confident that it could make good on its threat without risking any serious retaliatory action. But that’s not remotely the case in the new east-west stand-off. Neither Russia nor NATO could reasonably expect to take direct hostile military action against the other without incurring retaliation, risking escalation, and thus paying a major price.

So why threaten to do what you at all costs do not want to do? It’s a small-scale version of the dilemma of nuclear deterrence – which becomes a form of self-deterrence, and thus impotence, because of the certain knowledge that if the threat were ever acted upon, the only certainty would be self-destruction because the retaliatory commitment and capabilities of the adversary are beyond doubt. So, the threat of nuclear attack rings hollow, because the only relevant result of carrying out the threat would be one’s own nuclear destruction in response.

The bravado in Russian and NATO demonstrations of air power rings similarly hollow and has actually come to symbolize the opposite of what is intended. All rationality says that none of the differences now aggravating east-west relations is amenable to settlement by military means. A European battle employing the weapons systems that are now used as rather un-nuanced messengers of intended intimidation, would lead in a matter of days and weeks to consequences so disastrous and destructive that it is impossible to conceive of any political stake that would justify the mutual assaults. Henry Kissinger once made the point with regard to nuclear weapons – “any use of nuclear weapons is certain to involve a level of casualties and devastation out of proportion to foreseeable foreign policy objectives.” Neither are there any current or foreseeable political objectives in Eurasia that could be effectively advanced by the main east-west protagonists turning their enormous conventional military combat arsenals on each other, and in the process risking escalation to nuclear use.

Does it ever make sense to threaten to do what you know will never be in your interests to do? Symbolic flights of fighter aircraft and bombers are intended to remind the adversary that these weapons are available for use. But in any rational world, they are clearly not available for use by Russia against NATO or by NATO against Russia. There is no circumstance under which this would make sense or serve the interests of either side. Neither side wants them to be used.

Yet, NATO’s response to Russia’s annexation of Crimea was a classic case of threatening to do what American and central European NATO states are nevertheless rightly convinced should never be done. NATO decided to establish a Very High Readiness Joint Task Force that would be able to deploy within days in response to a crisis, although there is no case of NATO having been politically ready to respond immediately to a crisis when it was prevented from doing so for reasons of logistics. NATO is now to develop the capacity to attack Russia or its allies within 48 hours, but it is enhancing its capacity to do what it will never do, and should never do, and that is to engage in direct combat with Russia or its immediate allies.

Teddy Roosevelt advised speaking softly while carrying a big stick, but he was counting on just one side having the stick – if both sides have them and they’re both adorned with long spikes on the end, that’s a sign it’s time to speak more clearly and think about another kind of stick.

If reason prevails, air power diplomacy will ultimately be exchanged for real conference table diplomacy, which is already backed by an array of economic and political sanctions. Brandishing arsenals, whether nuclear or conventional, that can be used only to one’s own peril, is above all a way of advertising political impotence.

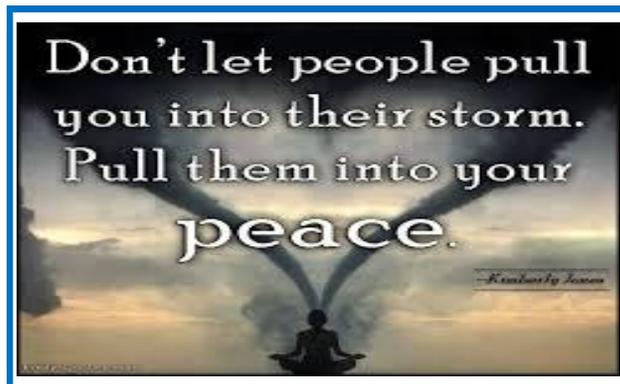


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Special thanks to Karen Huggins, Tracey Braun and Sally Hodges for their work writing and editing this issue of the newsletter.



**Parkdale United Church Special Presentation  
 Sunday March 15, 10.30 a.m., 2919 - 8 Avenue NW**

**From a Refugee in the Sudan to an Instructor in the  
 Dept. of Sociology, University of Calgary**

Michael Embaie has worked with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees assisting refugees in Southern and East Africa and has assisted with their settlement in Canada. He is now teaching a course on "Race and Ethnic Relations" at U. of C. Please come to hear about his experience and what he thinks we should know so we better support newcomers to Canada.

After the service, lunch, a power point presentation and time for questions and answers in the auditorium.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**



**Project Ploughshares Calgary**

**Yes...I am interested in supporting the  
 peace work of Project Ploughshares!**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50                           | <input type="checkbox"/> I'd like to make a    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100                          | monthly donation                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250                          | of \$_____                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500                          | <input type="checkbox"/> I'd like to volunteer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000                         |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Amount (Specify) \$_____ |  |

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Options:  Cheque  PayPal  Cash

**Make cheque payable to Project Ploughshares Calgary or go to  
[www.ploughsharescalgary.ca](http://www.ploughsharescalgary.ca) to make your payment via PayPal.**

**Please mail completed form with donation to:**

**Project Ploughshares Calgary, 2919 - 8 Ave. NW, Calgary, AB T2N 1C8**

**(Project Ploughshares is a charitable organization - we issue tax receipts for all donations over \$20)**