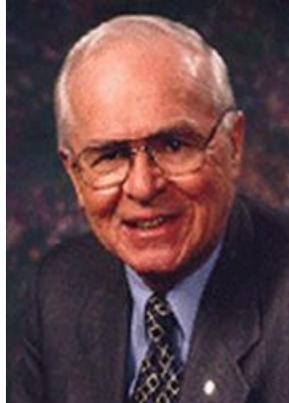




We are located:
Parkdale United
Church
2919 8th Ave NW
T2N 1C8
403- 270-7366

Office hours:
Mon, Tue, Thurs
9:30am - 2pm
Wed 2 - 6pm

The Hon. Douglas Roche O.C. Nominated for the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize



The International Peace Bureau has nominated for the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize the Hon. Douglas Roche O.C. (Order of Canada, former Ambassador and Senator) who has devoted his long professional life to the cause of disarmament -- notably nuclear disarmament. "We believe he is eminently eligible for the Nobel Peace Prize on account of the multiple outstanding roles he has played, both in the 'official' arenas and as a leader in a variety of civil society endeavours...as founder or co-founder of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), Middle Powers Initiative (MPI), and Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) – all of which have played very significant high-level roles in the global disarmament movement. Aside from existing Nobel laureates, it is hard to think of a single individual who has worked as hard for disarmament as he, and with such persistence and determination, at the top levels of world politics." (from letter to Nobel Committee). Full details at:http://roche.apirg.org/public_html/index.html.



Conscience Canada

Work for peace ... stop paying for war.

Tax Time = Time for Action!

<http://www.consciencecanada.ca/home.shtml>

Peace work is year-round, but tax time offers a special opportunity to make a statement against war through objecting to military taxation. Following are some key resources you can use to take action. **Peace Tax Return:** This form, to be sent in at tax time, is a way to make a statement against military taxation. It includes an option to just declare your opposition to military taxation, or to declare your opposition and also redirect a symbolic amount or the full military portion of your federal taxes. **CONSCIENCE CANADA MP TOOLKIT:** The Canada Revenue Agency only applies the law, it does not make it. Therefore at the same time as we use the Peace Tax Return to inform CRA of our objection to military taxation, we must work to persuade politicians of the necessity for legislative change. Below are the key components of our "MP Toolkit".

- [Sample letter to MP](#)
- Conscience Canada brochure ([English/en français](#))
- Recent copy of the Conscience Canada [Newsletter](#)
- The most recent Conscience Canada [Peace Tax Return](#)
- [History](#) of Conscientious Objection in Canada
- [Bill C-390](#), "An Act respecting conscientious objection to the use of taxes for military purposes"
- [Description of international activities](#)
- [Dialogues report](#) and [dialogues summary](#) on non-violent alternatives for security

Ploughshares Calgary News

Ploughshares Calgary Public Meetings

March 9, 2011, 7:00 pm, University of Calgary
An Evening with Vandana Shiva

Our regularly scheduled public meeting for March will take place at the University, in MacEwan Hall A & B. Project Ploughshares Calgary has partnered with the Consortium for Peace Studies to bring Vandana Shiva to speak that evening. Buy your tickets at www.netcommunity.ucalgary.ca/shiva.

April 13, 2011, 7:30 pm - Parkdale United Church

Word from Africa: The Effectiveness of Peacebuilding in Refugee Camps

Jane Lawson has completed her M.A. in Peace Studies at Royal Roads University. Jane spent 7 months working and doing research in refugee camps in Uganda and Liberia, and will speak to the effectiveness of peace programs in refugee camps and their effect on peacebuilding in post-conflict communities. Please join us for a thought-provoking presentation!

Project Ploughshares Spring Workshop—May 27-28, 2011

Building Trust, Building Community with Janyce Konkin of Initiatives of Change

Please join us for this interactive workshop on trustbuilding, focusing on values and honest conversation, beginning with the individual, moving outwards to our family, the larger community, the workplace, and lastly to a global level. How does individuality and collectivism impact our daily lives and the lives of our communities and our world. What are the purposes and advantages of community building? How do we go about that important work? More details to follow in next month's newsletter.

Volunteers

Thanks so much to Joye Brown for helping out this month in the office. It was much appreciated! There will be more volunteer opportunities available. Please watch for news regarding an upcoming volunteer workshop, and see our volunteer brochure on the website.

Can you be a contact person for us in another organization, temple, mosque or church? You would invite several other people to become Ploughshares supporters (\$35/year or free email newsletters) and/or ask the leadership to donate as an organization to Ploughshares work.

Donations

During the month of February, we have received \$400 in individual donations, as well as \$350 from organizations. Thank you so much to all those who donated to keep Project Ploughshares Calgary afloat. We appreciate every donation we receive, and hope that our supporters continue to donate generously.

Peace and Consumerism

At the Ploughshares February public meeting, Karen Huggins, our new Program Director, did a presentation on the impacts of consumerism on Canadians and people in the Global South to a group of about 25 people. A lively discussion took place after the presentation on what we can do to lessen our impact and live more simply and in tune with nature. Many positive suggestions as well as questions came out of the meeting, such as the futility of achieving happiness through purchasing goods, and where is the best place to find out information regarding the source country of the products we buy, and if they were fairly traded and ethically produced.

Global Zero

We'd like to tell you about Global Zero, an international movement for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

The United States Senate just ratified the New START Treaty between the US and Russia, the most significant arms control treaty in decades and a crucial first step to global zero—the worldwide elimination of nuclear weapons. With the US and Russia leading the way, this year could mark the beginning of the end of nuclear weapons. But public support at this crucial moment is critical to build the foundation of a binding and verifiable global zero agreement. To join me and the hundreds of thousands of people in every country in the world who believe in zero, click below:

<http://www.globalzero.org/en/sign-declaration>

Since we can't beat the Taliban, focus on reconciliation

By Ernie Regehr

The Globe and Mail online edition November 18, 2010

If Canada's newly announced post-2011 military mission in Afghanistan is to amount to more than training Afghan forces for perpetual war, it needs to be accompanied by a parallel diplomatic surge in pursuit of a political settlement of the conflict.

The Harper government's continuing commitment to regional diplomacy is a welcome step in that direction, but the point of regional diplomacy is to create a constructive context for national peace-making diplomacy in Afghanistan itself – a formidable challenge that also requires energetic Canadian and international support.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has already acknowledged that the war in Afghanistan can't defeat the insurgency – and that holds true whether the war is fought by Afghan forces with international support or by NATO-trained Afghans on their own. The point is underscored by the Obama administration's assertion that the aim of the current U.S. military surge is not to defeat the Taliban but to set them back on their heels.

A stalled insurgency, the reasoning goes, would create more favourable conditions for weaning young Taliban fighters away from the insurgency and for inducing their leaders to seek negotiations with the Afghan government and its international partners to end the war. Whether this is a workable strategy will be much debated. Meantime, there's no denying that the years of military effort to downgrade the Taliban have paralleled the insurgency's steady ascent.

Despite this, argues Pakistani author Ahmed Rashid, the Taliban had hit both a military and political wall well before the military surge. Though "they are a nationwide guerrilla insurgency ... they cannot take or control major population centres given NATO's firepower. There is no populist insurrection they can lead against U.S. forces as there was in Iraq." And Mr. Rashid adds: "The majority of Afghans do not want the return of a Taliban regime."

In other words, Afghanistan is now in the kind of "hurting stalemate" that should be conducive to negotiations.

The Afghan government and its partners in the International Security Assistance Force can't defeat the Taliban, and the Taliban can't defeat the government and its security backers. It's a stalemate that hurts both sides politically and economically, and that calls out for a political solution.

Canada's in a position to answer the call.

A stable political solution can't be built on backroom deals among armed factions and warlords. For reconciliation processes to produce sustainable outcomes, they must be transparent, inclusive of all sectors of society, include mechanisms for public consultations, and honour basic civil and human rights.

That's a tall order that must be Afghan-led, as Ottawa has rightly insisted, but Canada's in a position to support a constructive process. First, as a country that has invested heavily in the future of Afghanistan and has acknowledged that the war isn't winnable and that diplomacy is required, Canada needs to find a public voice to encourage pursuit of a transparent and inclusive reconciliation process. Second, an important way for Canada to engage more directly in support of reconciliation efforts would be for the Foreign Affairs Minister to appoint a special reconciliation envoy to Afghanistan. In addition to monitoring and supporting regional diplomacy, the envoy's mandate would include encouraging national reconciliation efforts and exploring mechanisms through which the international community could more effectively support them.

Third, Canada should support, through funding and international partnerships, an institutional framework within Afghan civil society to engage in any peace process. The best way to ensure that basic rights are advanced is to ensure that rights advocates have access to the process. And for civil society to be a genuine participant, it needs a formalized structure to monitor the reconciliation process, to hold public forums and consultations, to conduct research and to generally give leadership to citizen involvement in a process that will forge a new future for their country.

And finally, it's important that reconciliation and confidence-building also be carried out in local communities or districts throughout the country, both to address local conflicts and concerns and to generate local support for a national process. Canadian financial support for Afghan and international organizations that bolster local governance mechanisms and peace-building and that have a capacity to work with traditional and informal authorities at local and district levels would aid this effort.

Recognition of the traditions and advantages of decentralized governance in Afghanistan, along with the potential for local and informal authorities to serve as vehicles for conciliation, is part of the process of encouraging Afghan ownership of any reconciliation processes.

Canada may not be in a position to play a decisive role in the move toward reconciliation in Afghanistan, but we can certainly play an important supportive role. And that support should be an increasing part of the Canadian mission in Afghanistan.

Ernie Regehr is co-founder of Project Ploughshares, a Waterloo-based ecumenical agency of the Canadian Council of Churches. Mr. Regehr has made three visits to Kabul in recent years to explore reconciliation programs.



Project Ploughshares Calgary

2919 8th Ave. NW

Calgary AB T2N 1C8

(403) 270-7366

office@ploughsharescalgary.ca

www.ploughsharescalgary.ca

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

Calgary Peace Events

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 to 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 more 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/

Global Governance and the Evolution of the Responsibility to Protect

Dr. Andy Knight from the University of Alberta

Friday March 4, 2011—12:00—1:30 pm—Social Sciences 729

In 2005, the United Nations adopted the principle of Responsibility to Protect, which enables the UN to intervene to protect populations in local conflict situations when their governments fail to do so. Dr. Knight will discuss how Responsibility to Protect has fared thus far and what we can expect in the years ahead.

Nuclear Weapons – at what cost?

Nuclear weapons were supposed to provide 'more bang for the buck (US dollar)'. The facts, expertly researched and presented by Ben Cramer in the book [Nuclear Weapons: At What Cost](#), demonstrate the opposite. Military expenditures have increased in every country 'joining the nuclear club'. The nine nuclear weapon States collectively spend about US\$90 billion annually on nuclear weapons programmes. This is about 8% of the global military budget – or about the amount required to meet the [UN Millennium Development Goals](#) of ending hunger; providing universal primary education; reducing child and maternal mortality by 2/3rds, ensuring environmental sustainability (including combating climate change), achieving greater gender equity, and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other major diseases.

Global Day of Action Against Military Spending – April 12

The [International Peace Bureau](#) and the [Institute for Policy Studies](#) have joined together to organize a [Global Day of Action Against Military Spending](#) on April 12 – to coincide with the release of the [Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's annual report](#), which includes the latest new figures on [military expenditures around the world](#). Click [here](#) to find an event in your city to support or organize your own event using the [organizer's packet](#).

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)