

PROJECT
PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY

Peace News

MAY 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

Special Event

Monday April 30, 2012, 7:30 pm
Parkdale United Church Auditorium
2919—8 Avenue NW

The Achuar and Big Oil: At the Crossroads of Conflict Meet the Achuar Delegation



Ampush Ayui Chayat



Puwaanch Kintui Antich



Peas Peas Ayui



Jiyukam Irar Miik

These Achuar leaders are travelling from deep in the Amazon rainforest to in an effort to stop drilling for oil in their ancestral territory. They are visiting Ottawa, Calgary and Vancouver to raise awareness about how oil drilling threatens their way of life and the health of their rainforest ecosystem, and are visiting First Nations in the tar sands of Northern Alberta and on the British Columbian coast to build alliances to defend indigenous territories from destructive extractive industries. The remote Amazon headwaters along the border of Peru and Ecuador are one of the most biodiverse places on earth. As their ancestors have done before them, the Achuar hunt, fish, and raise crops in the Corrientes, Pastaza, and Morona river basins. Today, the Achuar's way of life and survival is threatened by international oil companies exploring and drilling for oil. Come out and learn what you can do to help support the Achuar!

*" Leave us in peace. We want to live free, breathe pure air.
The Creator made this land here so we could live peacefully."*

~ Pitiur Unti Saant, leader and elder from Unikum community

Calgary Peace Run Meeting Wednesday May 23, 2012

Parkdale United Church - Conference Room, 7:00 pm

Get involved! We need you! We want you - to be part of the team putting on this exciting new race in Calgary. Needed: sponsors, fundraisers, sign hangers, promoters, registration helpers (week of), and many people on the day (September 23). Let us know your interest at 403-270-7366 or come to this lively meeting on May 23rd!





Project Ploughshares Spring Workshop

Can Peace Be Green? Using Nonviolence to Support the Earth

This year's Spring Workshop was an unmitigated success! Friday evening featured Calgary author Chris Turner who noted that "the existential question of our day is climate change." He firmly believes that all wars since World War I have been based on resources and their scarcity. He stressed that we need to develop a post-carbon economy, that we need to make 'The Leap' (also the title of his latest book) to something beyond fossil fuels, since the reign of fossil fuels will end in our lifetimes. Chris spoke of the German government's progressive



leap from non-renewable resource dependency to autonomy by developing the concept of the feed-in tariff, and currently Germany is on-track to have 80% of their power supply come from renewable sources by the year 2050.



Chris was followed by the Very Rev. Bill Phipps, who considers the environment the most troubling and all-encompassing problem facing the world today. He spoke of the Titanic as a metaphor for what is happening in our world. The Titanic was considered the crowning achievement of the Western world's urge for power and wealth, and was also the epitome of class distinctions. In their arrogance, the crew of the Titanic ignored all the warnings about the icebergs ahead - similar to the detractors today of global warming. Rev. Phipps proposed the spiritual question of our times - how do we live together with Mother Earth? Some suggestions: 1) Have gratitude for the gift of life; 2) Live in humility - we are a part of the vast web of life; 3) Recognize that millions of people are making peace with the earth; 4) Build bridges and make connections with all interested citizens; 5) Learn to intervene in nonviolent ways.

Saturday morning Deborah Sword gave an incredible and very practical presentation on conflict transformation, and suggested that we all have untapped power - power that we may not even be aware of. Participants gave examples of what 'power' means to them, and then brainstormed about the types of power that we hold, which is considerable. She also focused on the need for critical thinking, and of having the ability to field propositions for change, as opposed to being in opposition with others. 'Blind spot analysis' was also discussed, in the context of our inability to see others' perspectives. Everyone has these blind spots—but unless we work on self-awareness we maintain these 'blind spots' and are unable to see beyond our own perspectives. Deborah's presentation sparked the creativity of the group, and elicited a long list of responses regarding what we are capable of doing to turn around the actions and policies that are currently detrimental to our environment.



Rev. Phipps closed the day with some key questions and observations, inspiring the attendees to continue this important work. "What do we need to do to save our world?" Thich Nhat Han's very profound answer was "We need to hear within ourselves the earth crying." He gave several examples of nonviolent environmental heroes, including Julia Butterfly Hill, Wangari Matthai, Robert Kennedy Jr., and Ray Anderson (featured in the movie "The Corporation"). The small group discussion after this session was stimulating and will likely lead to some type of further action with a coalition of peace and environmental groups.

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 \$475 from individuals during the month of February. From organizations, we have received \$500. Thanks so much to all of you who continue to give to Project Ploughshares on a regular basis. Your support is appreciated and crucial in helping us maintain and develop programming towards a true Culture of Peace!



Calgary Peace Run - A collaborative event organized by:

Project Ploughshares Calgary, The Consortium for Peace Studies, 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

Race Directors: Saima Jamal (peaceuc@ucalgary.ca, 403-220-2136)

Karen Huggins (office@ploughsharescalgary.ca, 403-270-7366)

How Can You Help?

Be a Runner or Walker!

The Calgary Peace Run is comprised of 5 k runs and walks, as well as 10 k runs and walks—all timed events. We welcome all Calgary runners and walkers. All money raised will be used to fund the programs of Project Ploughshares and the Consortium for Peace Studies, with 25% of all proceeds going to cdpeace in Sierra Leone. All participants are encouraged to ask their friends and families to sponsor their efforts in running or walking to make Calgary an innovative frontrunner in the quest for peaceful solutions to some of the world's problems. [Click here to register as a runner or walker for this event through the Running Room.](#)

Be a Sponsor!

Here is our budget for this event. You'll see that there are many items listed - we are looking for sponsors for each budget item, and encourage you to choose the item that best fits into your organization's budget. Of course, if you're able to help us by funding more than one item, or maybe a portion of one of the higher budget items, we would be extremely grateful! Those of you who contribute \$2500 or more will have your organization/company logo on all printed material related to this race, on large banners that will hang from bridges over major City of Calgary thoroughfares, as well as on the technical t-shirts that each participant will be able to purchase. Those who contribute less than \$2500 will be recognized by having your names on all printed materials related to the race as well as on our respective websites. All items listed are tax deductible. You can [pay for them online](#) or write a cheque to the University of Calgary or Project Ploughshares

Expenditures

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's 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



Trust deterrence, not bombs; A pre-emptive strike on Iran's nuclear facilities would ignore the lessons of the atomic age and violate international law

John Polanyi
Toronto Star
A27, 12 April 2012



Prominent among my teachers were those who had been in the desert of Alamogordo at the first nuclear test, the day the nuclear age was born. They drew two lessons. Both lessons seem in danger of being forgotten in the debate over Iran's nuclear ambitions.

The first was that nuclear weapons will have succeeded in their purpose if they are never used. The second lesson followed from the first; our future, if we are to have one, must be subject to restraint - this being a plea for international law.

The hope for peace, for the present, lies in deterrence based on the fact that nuclear war would leave no victors. Deterrence has been put to the test for three-quarters

of a century. Its central premise has been recognized by such dysfunctional states as the former Soviet Union and the present North Korea. It must serve, till we reclaim our dignity by embodying restraint in law.

If proof is needed of faith in deterrence, it is to be found in the behaviour of the world's nine nuclear weapons states (U.S., Russia, U.K., France, China, India, Pakistan and, undeclared, Israel and North Korea) which continue to spend on weapons modernization in their appetite for deterrence. Those who lived through the depressing parade in which these nuclear powers made their appearance, will recall that none was welcomed. The international community raised every impediment - political, legal, technical and economic (this last through sanctions) - that they could. Then they accepted what they could not alter.

The second, more hopeful, message of the atomic age is the need for international law. In two world wars almost 100 million perished. This led, at long last, to a commitment through the United Nations to a world subject to measures of agreed law.

This is relevant to the present predicament in respect of Iran. The UN Charter permits us to oppose the acquisition of nuclear weapons by Iran in every possible way - except one. The exception is the resort to war. But confused rhetoric is bringing war ever nearer.

A recent full-page open letter to President Barack Obama in the Washington Post by a respected group of retired U.S. generals (March 5, 2012; 'Mr. President: Say no to war of choice with Iran') gives evidence of that confusion. "Unless we or an ally is attacked, war should be an option of last resort," the generals say. They are attempting to stem the tide toward war with Iran, but in referring to war as "an option of last resort" they could fail in their purpose. Their premise - "Unless we or an ally are attacked" - makes their "option of last resort," the pre-emptive bombing of Iran, no option at all.

We must look elsewhere in the generals' letter for its true message. "The U.S. military," they say, "is the most formidable military force on earth. But not every challenge has a military solution." Iran is a case in point.

Article 51 of the UN Charter permits a state to act in "self-defence if armed attack occurs." Authorities hold this to mean (following Britain's former attorney general, Lord Goldsmith) that this "permits the use of force in self-defence against an imminent attack, but does not authorize the use of force to mount a pre-emptive strike." Since law stands or falls by precedent, an attack on Iran that failed to meet these criteria would undermine the rule of law.

There is more to consider. It is widely agreed that an attack with penetrating bombs on Iran's nuclear installations might set the country's nuclear weapons program (if such exists) back by one to three years. Following that, a decision would have to be made whether to acquiesce in Iran's nuclear ambitions - by then real and unalterable - or launch a second attack in a Middle East enraged by the first. The precedent we would be helping establish by further bombing is that of pre-emption at will.

Regrettably, Obama has been persuaded to say that the policy of containment of a nuclear Iran is "no longer on the table." That being the case, a new word for containment must be found. That word is deterrence.

John Polanyi has long been involved in international debate on nuclear issues. He is a professor of chemistry and Nobel Laureate at the University of Toronto.

The new Iran talks: will both sides finally take the steps they have so far refused?

By Ernie Regehr, April 18, 2012

(Full article available at <http://disarmingconflict.ca/2012/04/18/the-new-iran-talks-will-both-sides-finally-take-the-steps-they-have-so-far-refused/#more-1003>)



To no one's surprise, Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu had only derision for the recently resumed nuclear talks with Iran, but for most the Iran debate has moved from the merits of a military attack to the key elements of a negotiated settlement.

Because of a five week gap between the opening meeting on April 14, of the "P5 plus one" (the five permanent members of the Security Council plus Germany) with Iran, and the next one scheduled for May 23, Mr. Netanyahu complains that Tehran has been granted "a five-week gift from the world to continue enriching uranium – without any limitation, any inhibition."

One wonders how many times it has to be repeated, but the fact remains that Iran can, as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) formally acknowledges, and will, as the Iranian leadership has made abundantly clear, continue enriching uranium, not only for five weeks, but indefinitely. However, contrary to the complaint, echoed by US Republicans, such enrichment is *not* without limits. There are already limits imposed by the NPT and it is the details of additional limits, and especially ways verifying compliance with them, that are the primary focus of the newly resumed talks.

The definition of what would constitute a successful outcome has shifted significantly. The Netanyahu demands are not the goal. He called on Iran, notwithstanding his own refusal to allow any inspection of any of Israel's rather advanced (to put it more delicately than it deserves) nuclear programs, to take "immediate steps to stop all enrichment, take out all enrichment material, and dismantle the [nuclear facility in Qom." There was a time, under the George W. Bush Administration, when the United States and the Security Council insisted on similar demands, but reality can be ignored for only so long. The Administration of Barack Obama has for some time now acknowledged (implicitly if not always explicitly) that Iran does have the same right as any other state to enrich uranium, if, and this is the key qualifier, it meets its responsibilities under the NPT. The international community more broadly has also come to the inevitable conclusion that Iran, a state with advanced scientific knowledge and a decades-long nuclear program, will ultimately not be stopped from enriching uranium or from acquiring other nuclear fuel cycle technologies relevant to bomb making. The knowledge to build a bomb is not prohibited; building a bomb is prohibited.

The challenge is to get Iran to also face some hard realities – namely, that it cannot be free of sanctions and other punitive measures until it fully acknowledges, cooperates with, and abides by the international community's mandated right, not to mention obligation, to set verifiable limits and conditions on enrichment and other weapons-relevant elements of its nuclear program, and to receive credible disclosures and explanations regarding Iran's earlier clandestine activities.

By now the basic outlines of an agreement that would affirm Iran's right to a peaceful nuclear program and at the same time meet the international community's verification requirements are well known.

As to the verifiable limits imposed on enrichment, the most basic one is obviously a prohibition on enrichment to bomb grade levels – a limit that Iran has to date honored. However, because of the continuing uncertainty about its ultimate intentions, the international community will justifiably demand that Iran also end all enrichment to the 20 percent level that is still well below bomb grade uranium, but it is uncomfortably close and, at least until the international community can be fully confident that Iran will not pursue bomb grade enrichment, for Iran to have a stockpile of 20 percent enriched uranium is unacceptable. Hence, there will also be efforts to revive earlier proposals which would see Iran shipping its 20 percent enriched uranium out of the country in exchange for access to fuel for its research reactor, which produces medical isotopes. And there is speculation that Iran will now be open to such an arrangement, given that the Iranian delegation to the April session is reported to have described the failure to agree in 2009 to a similar deal as a "missed opportunity."

But the international community will be, and should be, united and resolute in requiring Iran to meet the very highest levels of transparency and accountability, and thus to allow maximum access by IAEA inspectors. That will especially mean that Iran will be required to operate under the conditions of the IAEA Additional Protocol, a mechanism, which Iran has signed but not ratified, providing much more extensive access to declared and suspected nuclear sites.

What is Iran to get in return for meeting these various demands and conditions? The big gain will be the same freedom from punitive counter-measures that other uranium-enriching states enjoy – that is, the freedom to enrich uranium to low, non-weapon levels, under strict IAEA inspections. For that to happen, Iran's progressive increase in cooperation on the above demands will have to be matched by progressive withdrawals of economic and diplomatic sanctions and their ultimate removal.

There have been welcome signs of Iranian cooperation. In an op-ed article in the Washington Post, Iran's Foreign Minister, Ali Akbar Salehi, recently reinforced the Iranian Supreme Leader's fatwa against the production, stockpiling, or use of nuclear weapons. Success will be measured by concrete results. To achieve those, both Iran and the international community, represented by the P5 plus one, will have to take steps they have heretofore refused to take.



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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

Project Ploughshares June Presentation

Wednesday, June 13, 2012, 7:30 pm

Parkdale United Church, 2919 - 8 Avenue NW



Conflict Transformation and Inner Peace ~

Project Ploughshares AGM (at end of meeting)

Martha McManus, M.A., MPhil, Rotary WORLD Peace Scholar

Martha's workshops help conflict resolution specialists expand their work to include the roles of preventing, resolving and containing conflict as provider, teacher, bridge-builder, mediator, arbiter, equalizer, healer, witness, referee and peacekeeper. More info to follow in June newsletter.

Summer Institute in Peacebuilding and Social Justice

Consortium for Peace Studies, University of Calgary

Location: Professional Faculties Building 3208

July 9 - 13, 2012

The third annual Summer Institute will be offered as a block week course (35-40 classroom hours), housed in the Faculty of Social Work and open to students from any faculty registered in Graduate and Undergraduate degree programs, as well as members of the general public. The focus will be on understanding and analyzing selected theories and practice methods of peacebuilding / conflict resolution as seen through a social justice lens. Participants will be given a cross-disciplinary perspective on processes that lead toward progressive, non-violent change as it relates to the individual, society (local / global) and the environment. [Click here](#) for public registration (CAD\$500). For course details and for student registration option, [click here](#).



Initiatives of Change

Calgary Women's Peace Circles

May 8th or 9th - June 12th or 13th (Contact Janyce Konkin at 403-830-5320)

A space for women of different cultures, faiths and backgrounds to discover their own ability, as individuals and as a group, to create peace at home, at work and in the community; Small community gatherings of women who work together through material designed to deepen their friendship and understanding of the nature of peace and their own peace creating capabilities; Change lives by engaging women in trust building relationships; Encourage initiatives in their local communities in a new way.

What will you learn?

At the end of the program, women will: *Have a deeper understanding of their role as a peace creator; Build networks of forgiveness and friendship across racial, religious and social divides; Appreciate the use of personal story telling as a tool for personal transformation; Practice specific skills and tools for peace creation; Be proactive rather than reactive when trust-breaking situations occur around us; Make a commitment to take tangible action to meet a need identified in their local community.*



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)

SPOLUMBO SAUSAGES FOR SPRING ORDER NOW!!

Deadlines for ordering: June 4th
Orders ready: week of June 18th

Spolumbos is once again kindly making a Project Ploughshares fundraiser possible with eight types of their delicious, renowned sausages - all natural, gluten-free with no fillers, binders or preservatives. A Calgary homegrown business and 100% prime Alberta pork and poultry. Enormous savings over store prices for you!! Trays contain 18 fresh sausage-links. A slight reduction for a case (two trays).



**To order, please send your name,
email address, phone number,
cheque and the details of the order to:**

**Project Ploughshares
c/o- Parkdale United Church
2919 8 Ave NW
Calgary, AB T2N 1C8**

#	Sausage Type	Cost of 2.75 kg tray	# Ordered	Cost of 5.5 kg case	# Ordered	Savings for 5.5 kg (2 trays) over grocery store prices
911	Spicy Italian	34.40		68.50		16.55
909	Mild Italian	34.40		68.50		16.55
901	Bratwurst	35.10		70.00		15.75
930	Chicken Apple	41.25		82.00		24.50
938	Chicken Sundried	45.50		90.50		Not found in grocery store
200	Maple Breakfast	38.50		76.00		14.50.
932	Chicken Blueberry	44.50		88.50		19.50
905	Red Wine & Orange Pork	39.10		78.00		Not found in grocery store
	SUB-TOTALS					
	GRAND TOTAL DUE					\$

Thanks for supporting the cause of peace! May you have a peaceful spring and summer!