

**PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY
SOCIETY**

Peace News

OCTOBER 2017



We are located at:

Parkdale United Church
2919 8th Ave NW
T2N 1C8

403-270-7366

Office hours:

Mon, Tues & Thurs
10 am - 3 pm

Wed 2 pm - 7 pm

Ploughshares Calgary presents:

Nuclear Weapons and YOUR Investments

Wednesday, October 11th at 7 pm

Parkdale United Church basement

2919 8 Ave NW

- Are you concerned about the situation in North Korea? Are you an investor, or do you participate in an invested pension fund? Do you know if your money is funding the development and production of nuclear weapons?
- Join Devan Legare of Manulife Securities for a discussion of the implications of your investments and what divesting could mean for your portfolio.
- Learn of the corporations and financial institutions in North American and around the world that are using your deposits and investments to capitalize the nuclear weapons industry.
- Bring your financial statements and prospectuses. We will help you check the makeup of your funds. Be prepared to be shocked!

Join Ploughshares for an informative and enlightening evening. Admission by donation.

Info: 403 270 7366

www.ploughsharescalgary.ca



Ploughshares News

We are pleased to inform our members, donors and supporters that we officially received our non-profit status in September. We are now registered with the Government of Alberta as Ploughshares Calgary Society.

We look forward to your continued support of our work with your physical presence at monthly educational meetings and our annual events such as the Peace Fair in November, Open House in December, the International Day of Peace in September and the Floating Lantern Peace Ceremony in August. We also are very appreciative of your financial support. Please make your donation cheques out to:

Ploughshares Calgary Society
2919—8 Avenue NW
Calgary, AB T2N 1C8

If you were planning to leave a bequest to Ploughshares, please make sure your Wills are amended to direct the money to Ploughshares Calgary Society.

We thank you most sincerely for your present and future support!

DIVESTMENT of SHARES in NUCLEAR WEAPONS CONTRACTORS

Please join Ploughshares Calgary to hear Devan Legare of Manulife Securities, inform and educate us of the implications of our investments and the production of nuclear weapons; what divestment could look like for your portfolio, the corporations and financial institutions that are capitalizing on the nuclear weapons industry and more!

When: Wednesday, October 11th

Time: 7 pm to 8:30 pm

**Where: Parkdale United Church, Conference Room in the basement
2919—8 Avenue NW**

Admission: by donation

The Prohibition Treaty: A New Political Moment

Address by **Hon. Douglas Roche, O.C.**

Group of 78 Annual Policy Conference 2017

Ottawa, September 23, 2017

The struggle for nuclear disarmament in the summer of 2017 was, to paraphrase the immortal Charles Dickens, the best of times and the worst of times, the age of wisdom and the age of foolishness, a season of light and a season of darkness. On July 7, a Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons was adopted at the U.N., the result of a collaboration between like-minded governments and highly informed civil society activists, who recognized the “catastrophic humanitarian consequences” of the use of any nuclear weapon. On August 8, President Trump issued an extraordinary ultimatum to North Korea, warning Pyongyang not to make any more threats against the United States or they will “face fire and fury like the world has never seen.” This rhetorical forecast of doom is backed up by U.S. modernization of its entire nuclear arsenal – the bombers, submarines and missiles – at a cost of \$1 trillion, leading former U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry to express his own version of Dickensian gloom: “Today, the danger of some sort of a nuclear catastrophe is greater than it was during the Cold War.”

What are we to make of such contradictions? The world appears to be going in two directions at the same time. The joy we should be experiencing from the forward movement of humanity – every field of human activity is providing more benefits to more people than ever before -- is smothered by violence and the threat of the ultimate violence. President Trump’s bellicose speech to the United Nations this week is further unnerving, but that does not mean diplomatic work for nuclear disarmament is

futile; the world survived the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 because diplomacy saved the day.

We must concentrate on keeping our balance on this jolting ride through history. In a long life dealing with the vagaries of nuclear disarmament, and always mindful of the horrors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, I have never lost my hope that an enlightened humanity can fight back against the shrill voices of fear. That is why we are here at this Group of 78 conference.

Taking a longer perspective than the 24/7 news cycle helps us to see reasons for hope. The first point I wish to make is that nuclear disarmament has entered stage 2 of its historical development. All great movements for social change go through three stages: first, the reform is scoffed at, second, establishment forces vigorously object to it, and third, the change is accepted by the body politic. The end of slavery, colonialism and apartheid all went through these stages.

For decades, nuclear disarmament has been brushed aside as the major powers dismissed the idea of the abolition of nuclear weapons. The U.S. and Russia, despite reducing the quantity of their nuclear arsenals, have never taken the abolition of nuclear weapons seriously and have consistently thwarted the aspirations of those who urged them to move, via Article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, toward a nuclear weapons-free world. In India, Pakistan and Israel, latecomers to the nuclear club, the idea of foregoing nuclear weapons has been met with grotesque laughter. Twenty years ago, when I led a Middle Power Initiative delegation to NATO to request an end to NATO’s reliance on nuclear weapons, a senior official leaned back in his chair and with a huge grin proclaimed, “Mission impossible!”

The major countries built their nuclear mountains, seemingly impregnable, and the passage of time has, at least in their own interpretation, conferred a right on them to possess nuclear arsenals while proscribing their acquisition by any other state. North Korea has, in a figurative sense, exploded that theory.

The Arrival of Stage 2

The rise of the humanitarian movement against nuclear weapons, seen in the special conferences in Oslo, Nayarit and Vienna, signalled the end of stage 1. The vigour displayed by the U.S., the U.K. and France against the proposals for, then the actual negotiations, and finally the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons showed they are indeed taking the proponents seriously. The ink was hardly dry on the Treaty when the P3 declared: “We do not intend to sign, ratify or ever become part of it.” The vehement objections characterize the arrival of stage 2.

No one thinks the Treaty by itself will eliminate nuclear weapons. But it does stigmatize them and puts them outside the boundaries of international humanitarian law. It directly challenges the military doctrine of nuclear deterrence. Those who sign the Treaty recognize there is not an ounce of morality or law to justify the continued possession, by any state, of weapons that threaten to annihilate humanity. The strength of the Treaty is that it raises the global norm against nuclear weapons and prepares an institutional path toward their elimination. It opens the door to comprehensive negotiations – eventually -- between the U.S., the U.K., France, Russia and China and the remaining members of the nuclear club.

We must expect more opposition to the breakthrough that has created stage 2. Anyone who reads Christopher Ford’s legal diatribe against the Treaty, presented

August 22 to the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace on behalf of the U.S. government, will be in no doubt that an immense fight against the humanitarian movement has been launched by the nuclear powers.

Canada’s Responsibilities

This brings us to Canada and the responsibilities of the nuclear disarmament community in our own country. I want to align myself immediately with the policy adopted by the Canadian Pugwash Group that “Canada should sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and state that it will, through dialogue and changes to its own policies and practices, persist in efforts to bring NATO into conformity with the Treaty, with a view to Canada’s ratification as soon as possible.” I respectfully suggest that the Group of 78 add its prestigious support to this policy.

There was a time when the Government of Canada would have welcomed the Prohibition Treaty. Think back to the courageous journey Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau made in 1983 to the P5 capitals to urge them to desist from the nuclear arms race. A later government so persistently urged NATO to review its nuclear policies that Canada became known, derisively by the NATO hierarchy, as a “nuclear nag.” But the present government refuses to have anything to do with the Treaty, which the incumbent Prime Minister, the son of Pierre, has brusquely called “useless.”

The official government position, stated on the floor of the House of Commons, is that the Treaty is “premature” and “ineffective.” In an exercise in baffling logic, the government takes the stand that the Treaty is “divisive” because it will stigmatize nuclear weapons over the objections of the current possessors. Having boycotted the negotiating process, the possessors

now object to a lack of consensus. Truly, the arguments by the possessors and their NATO adherents are descending to vapidness.

It is particularly sad to see our government, once so respected in the community of nations -- as I and many others who have been privileged to represent Canada in official forums can attest -- now undermining the very rationale of the Treaty. For a full rebuttal of the government's arguments, I refer you to Cesar Jaramillo's dissection, "Six Deceptive Arguments Against a Nuclear Weapons Ban," in which he explains that the Treaty developed out of the failure of the NPT to deliver on the promise of complete nuclear disarmament. The Treaty is the outcome of a new kind of politics in which like-minded governments joined with committed civil society activists to put human safety ahead of strategic analysis.

The humanitarian movement has come too far to be stopped by the intimidation tactics long practiced by the possessors. However, as far as Canada is concerned, the U.S. has immense power over our global security decisions. It is not easy to stand against U.S. decisions, erroneous as they often are, as illustrated by the Vietnam War, the Iraq War, and the fixation on ballistic missile defence. But we have done so before. Courage is the first requirement.

We can now expect the Canadian government to switch gears, so to speak, and begin arguing that its NATO commitments preclude signing the Treaty. This too is a false argument. NATO's Strategic Concept, claiming nuclear weapons as the "supreme guarantee" of security, is a political policy. It is not a binding legal document, a status that only the NATO Charter possesses. Thus there is no legal barrier to a NATO country signing the Treaty -- as long as the country expresses, in good faith, its opposition to NATO's political declarations on nuclear

weapons. Since the early days of the Alliance, member states have reserved the right to adopt independent national policies on nuclear weapons. At one time or another, Norway, Denmark, Iceland and Spain have held nuclear policies at variance with NATO. To this day, France remains outside NATO's integrated command structure.

It is a fallacy to claim that Canada would have to leave NATO in order to join the Treaty. In fact, Paragraph 96 of the NATO Report, December 14, 2000, explicitly says, "NATO is committed to meaningful public outreach to interested individuals and groups, including discussion of the adaptations which the Alliance's force posture has undergone. . . NATO is equally committed to discussing the Alliance's policy of support for nuclear arms control and disarmament."

If, as the Pugwash policy recommends, Canada were to work to end NATO reliance on nuclear weapons, that would show good faith in seeking to uphold the object and purpose of the Treaty. What specific actions would Canada have to undertake to sign the Treaty in good faith? We are in uncharted territory here, though there are some guidelines from the past, e.g., when Canada renounced the capacity to produce nuclear weapons and also when it ended deployment of U.S. nuclear warheads with Canadian Forces in Europe under NATO and in Canada with NORAD.

A New Dialogue in NATO

In the light of the Treaty, non-nuclear states within NATO should lead the Alliance in a dialogue on measures to reduce and ultimately eliminate nuclear weapons from NATO security policies.

The start of such a dialogue requires Canada, at a minimum, to renounce use or threatened use of nuclear weapons on its behalf and a renewed commitment to support efforts on nuclear disarmament. An important step toward eliminating reliance on nuclear weapons is to confine their role to deterring other nuclear weapons, e.g. to call for a no-first-use policy as a start, and a call for the removal of all tactical nuclear weapons from Europe.

To sum up, NATO non-nuclear states should announce their intention to sign the Prohibition Treaty and then begin to work on NATO policy to further reduce reliance on nuclear weapons, and promote mutual nuclear disarmament with Russia, China and the other nuclear states.

There is no legal impediment to Canada talking this action now. But there is definitely a political inhibition. The existence of the Prohibition Treaty, backed by a majority of nations of the world, forces Canada to end its present ambiguous stand on nuclear disarmament. Canada must decide if it will work to support the Prohibition Treaty

or continue to support the nuclear deterrence doctrine. One path leads to nuclear weapons elimination; the other leads to the perpetuation of nuclear weapons and the near certainty of their eventual use.

Stage 2 of the long journey to nuclear disarmament demands that we in the peace movement fight to bring Canada back where it belongs – in the forefront of the struggle to end the ultimate evil. The 1,000 members of the Order of Canada who have called for Canada to take strong diplomatic action for nuclear disarmament are but one example of the Canadian public's desire for an end to nuclear weapons.

Stage 3 in this mammoth social change in the human journey – government policies to negotiate the complete elimination of nuclear weapons -- awaits. This great day for the world seems far in the future. It is our job to bring it closer.

We thank Hon. Douglas Roche for permission to print this speech

What Books Are You Reading?

Book review by: *David Mitchell, President & CEO of CCVO (the Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations).*

“You’re More Powerful Than You Think: A Citizen’s Guide to Making Change”, by Eric Liu, 2017

This important little book provides inspiration for all those who toil in our communities but may need to relearn how to exercise their citizen muscles.

Eric Liu, the founder and CEO of Citizen University, is based in Seattle and, while most of his references are American, his thinking is also quite relevant to Canadian community organizations. He believes that we’re living in an age of citizen power, arguing we need to be more fluent in how public engagement really works.

Liu urges us to think like a movement, taking lessons from some of the great social movements of previous generations and applying them at the community level. And he also suggests that our social innovations should be scaled out, across our communities, not scaled up like the next tech start-up or takeover opportunity.

I’ve now been using and adapting some of Liu’s thinking to our work in Calgary’s non-profit sector, and I’m drawn to the idea that “we’re all better off when we’re all better off.”

The only adjustment I’ve made is to broaden his message from the first person, more decidedly to the second: We’re more powerful than we think!

33rd Annual
HOLIDAY PEACE FAIR

Sat. November 4, 2017
Parkdale United Church
2919 - 8 Avenue NW
9:30 AM - 4 PM

**Supporting Social Justice, Fair
Trade and the Environment**

Unique items from 30 vendors
working for peace, social justice
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**Light lunch available
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\$3.00 admission
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2017 PEACE FAIR BAKE SALE

ATTENTION ALL BAKERS!

WE NEED YOUR SKILLS, TALENTS and GENEROSITY

Please donate your baked goods to the

PLOUGHSHARES' BAKE SALE TABLE

Let's make it nice and big!

Contributions can be dropped off on
Friday, November 3rd between 12 noon and 3:00 pm
or on Saturday, November 4th. between 8:30 and 9:15 am.
Please package items in clear plastic bags ready for selling,
ingredients list included.

Please let us know if you'll be contributing anything.

Sultana
Ploughshares Calgary
office@ploughsharescalgary.ca
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HOW CAN YOU HELP?

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Ask a business to donate an item or gift card

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All Items Auctioned off at

The Holiday Peace Fair

Sat. November 4, 2017

Parkdale United Church

2919 – 8 Avenue NW

Please contact Sultana if you have any items to
donate

office@ploughsharescalgary.ca

403-270-7366



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Special thanks to all who submitted articles & Sally Hodges for editing this issue of the newsletter.



If you haven't already, please inform us whether you wish to continue receiving emails from us.

You may unsubscribe at any time by just emailing us your request. Thanks to all who have already responded.



We are very grateful to all our donors for their continued support of the important peace work that we do here at Ploughshares Calgary. During the month of September, we received \$405 in donations from individuals.

We would like to encourage you to continue your support by signing up for a monthly donation plan. This type of sustained donation is very beneficial for the day-to-day running of Ploughshares Calgary, as we know more clearly from month-to-month exactly what is coming in. This

helps us immensely in planning our programs for the year! If you are interested in this option, please contact the office: 403-270-7366, or email: office@ploughsharescalgary.ca.

We look forward to providing you with top-quality seminars and workshops on various peace topics, and would greatly appreciate your on-going support! Many, many thanks for your consideration.

Ploughshares Calgary Society

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



- \$ 50
 - \$100
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 - \$500
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 - Other Amount (Specify) \$_____
- I'd like to make a monthly donation of \$_____
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Make cheque payable to Ploughshares Calgary Society or go to www.ploughsharescalgary.ca to make your payment via PayPal.
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Please note that we are unable to provide tax receipts at this time.