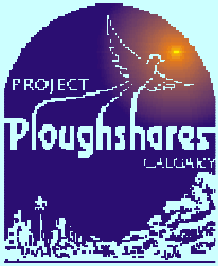


**PROJECT
PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY**

Peace News

SUMMER 2008



Volunteer & Appreciation Evening and Ploughshares Calgary AGM

**Wednesday June 11th 7pm
Parkdale United Church (2919 8th Ave NW)**

The Ploughshares Executive wants to honour all our many volunteers throughout our 2007/2008 program year for one special hour (7 to 8pm), prior to our Annual General Meeting which will begin at 8:15pm.

**Delicious Desserts, Special Musical Entertainment,
Comraderie, Speeches, Thank you Presentations**

RSVP appreciated at 270-7366 or office@ploughsharescalgary.ca



We are located:

**Parkdale United
Church
2919 8th Ave NW
T2N 1C8**

(403) 270-7366

Office hours:

**Mon, Tue, Thurs
10:30am - 3pm**

Wed 2 - 6pm

Summer Office Coverage

During the summer the Ploughshares office will be closed as usual, starting in July. Our Program Coordinator will be working limited hours during the summer on the peace pole project. Regular office hours, meetings and the newsletter will resume in September.

We wish our members a wonderful and peaceful summer and look forward to seeing you in the fall. Our first event in the fall will be on Sunday, September 21—the International Day of Peace, on which we are planning on celebration the unveiling of Calgary's peace pole.



The Art of Peace: A Camp for Kids



A peace camp provides an opening for children to explore what kind of future they want for their children, what peace means to them, and how they might achieve it in a bewildering world.

There are three peace camps already planned for this summer in Calgary—please be in touch with the contact person if you are interested in helping (teenage helpers are especially welcome and will receive an honorarium).

July 7 to 11 at 132 Scarboro Ave. SW - Contact: Christine at chris.louie10@gmail.com

August 11 to 15 at 1703 1st Street NW - Contact: Betsy at ebyoung@telus.net

August 25 to 29 at 5010 Spruce Drive SW - Contact: Tracy at tracy@vilya.com

If you are interesting in organizing your own camp, the Ploughshares office has copy of a handbook that can help—it is also available at www.carolynpogue.ca



Ploughshares Calgary News



Cause for Hope: Facing the World's Challenges— A Spring Workshop Report

Both presenters and attendees at Ploughshares' Spring Workshop *Cause for Hope: Facing the World's Challenges* held on Saturday May 24th at the Village Park Inn, came away more connected and affirmed in the work that all are doing.

The Very Reverend Dr. Bill Phipps started the day off by asking attendees to put names to the different elements in the 'old story' (the characters, the conflict, and the change) that is leading us to a crossroad. Some of the signposts of this crossroad are the increasing rich-poor gap, the growth of militarism, and the plundering of the earth. The 'new story' that we want to draw more people into is a story that embraces a non-violent response to conflict, economic justice, respect and care for the earth, humility, and racial and gender justice. It is a movement that cannot be stopped as people are just doing it – most without a leader or an ideology. Bill encouraged attendees to become involved in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that is just beginning a journey across Canada to hear stories about the effects of residential schools on First Nations peoples. "It could be one of the great moments in history if we take it seriously. We have the opportunity to begin to write a new story."

Ricardo Acuña, executive director of The Parkland Institute in Edmonton took the opportunity to share his personal story of activism born out his family's fleeing as refugees from Chile in 1975 as a result of threats from Pinochet's regime. In speaking about different issues that he has been involved in, Ricardo spoke of the battle against Bill-11 (changes to health-care in Alberta) where those involved "got so caught up in fighting against a government proposal that we lost sight of what we were fighting for" and after the battle was 'won' the people dispersed. Ricardo emphasized three important points to keep in mind when working for change:

1. the bigger goal
2. the need for empathy – don't get caught in the demonization of the other, bring vulnerability and respect to the table
3. what are your values (more often than not our values are all the same regardless of our position on a particular issue is)

Carolyn Pogue, peace writer and activist, emphasized the importance of remembering and meeting other travelers that provide us with 'good company'. She spoke about the Women in Black group in Calgary, which "stands for a world without violence" in silent vigil at noon each 2nd and 4th Friday of the month in Olympic Plaza among the Famous Five statues. Carolyn also introduced the attendees to Raffi Cavoukian's Troubadour Institute Child Honouring Covenant and encouraged everyone to consider how their decisions will affect the most vulnerable of our species. And she provided attendees with examples of hope through information about projects and books that children and young people have created in their efforts of making the world a better place.

In fact, all of the 35 attendees of the workshop were a 'cause for hope' as Bill estimated that they were in total connected to at least 200 different organizations that are working within the 'new story'.

Ploughshares National News

Ernie Regehr, Senior Policy Advisor at Project Ploughshares national writes a blog called ***Disarming Conflict*** that can be found at www.igloo.org/disarmingconflict. Recent postings include *The Relevance of R2P in Burma*, *Multilateralism and Canada's uranium enrichment ambitions* and the excerpt below from his latest entry posted on June 3.

One Afghan academic's formula for peace

A recent visit to Kabul afforded ten days of discussions with Afghan academics, students, civil society organizations, former Mujahideen, community Elders, politicians, and Government officials, as well as international NGOs, UN officials, and diplomats. One academic, one of several interviewed with strong links to Pashtun-based anti-government forces, offered a succinct and interesting prescription for stabilizing Afghanistan and setting the stage for more effective progress in reconstruction. The international community, he said, is best equipped to address, and should be paying a lot more attention to, the international context – it should focus on fixing the international dynamics in the region.

Global Peace News

Human Security Brief 2007

Challenging the expert consensus that the threat of global terrorism is increasing, the *Human Security Brief 2007* reveals a sharp net decline in the incidence of terrorist violence around the world.

Fatalities from terrorism have declined by some 40 percent, while the loose-knit terror network associated with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda has suffered a dramatic collapse in popular support throughout the Muslim world.

The *Brief* also describes and analyses the extraordinary, but largely unnoticed, positive change in sub-Saharan Africa's security landscape. The number of conflicts being waged in the region more than halved between 1999 and 2006; the combat toll dropped by 98 percent.

Finally, the *Brief* updates the findings of the 2005 *Human Security Report*, and demonstrates that the decline in the total number of armed conflicts and combat deaths around the world has continued. The number of military coups has also continued to decline, as have the number of campaigns of deadly violence waged against civilians.

The Human Security Report Project is a research institute located at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver that focuses it's research on political violence. The 2007 brief, release May 21, 2008, is available at www.humansecuritybrief.info.

Britain Joins a Draft Treaty on Cluster Munitions

The draft of a treaty to ban cluster munitions was adopted by a group of 111 nations on Wednesday in Dublin after Britain dropped its longstanding opposition to any limitations on the weapons.

The treaty, hammered out in two weeks of talks in Dublin, had been under negotiation since February 2007. The nations accepting the treaty are scheduled to gather again in Oslo in early December to sign the pact, which would ban the use, production and sale of cluster munitions.

The draft treaty would still leave most of the world's stockpile of cluster weapons untouched, as the United States has been joined in its outright opposition to the ban, and in its boycott of the Dublin conference, by a group of military powers that includes China, Russia, Israel, India, Pakistan and Brazil.

Cluster munitions is the term used for weapons fired from aircraft and artillery that contain dozens, or even hundreds, of bomblets that can remain active long after the weapon is fired, posing deadly risks to civilians. Used by the United States and Britain in Iraq during the invasion of 2003, and by Israel in its incursion into Lebanon in 2006, the weapons have been blamed for the deaths of hundreds of civilians. Human rights groups estimate that one in four of the casualties have been children playing with the unexploded bomblets.

The draft treaty sets an eight-year deadline for signatory nations to destroy most of their stockpiles of cluster weapons, along with other provisions that delegates said would ultimately eliminate all but a small fraction of cluster munitions in nations that sign the treaty. It also obliges nations that adopt it to provide "technical, financial or material assistance" for clearing up cluster munitions "remnants" that remain on the territory of other states.

Negotiators in Dublin also resolved a dispute over a section of the treaty that deals with the responsibilities, and potential legal liabilities, of signatory states that cooperate in battlefield situations with nations that have not joined the ban — something the United States had lobbied for energetically.

In a concession to Britain, Australia and other American military allies, the draft treaty contains a permissive provision stating that the troops of signatory nations "may engage in military cooperation and operations with states not party to this convention that might engage" in the use of cluster munitions.

The New York Times—May 29, 2008

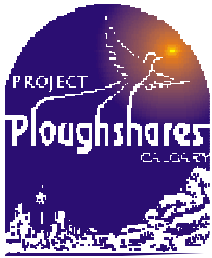
Global Peace Index

The "Global Peace Index," compiled by the Economist Intelligence Unit, ranked Canada 11th out of 140 countries according to how peaceful they were domestically and how they interacted with the outside world.

The index looks at 24 indicators of external and internal measures of peace, including U.N. deployments overseas and levels of violent crime, respect for human rights, the number of soldiers killed overseas and arms sales.

The index was launched under the auspices of the Institute for Economics and Peace, a new think tank based in Australia that looks at the relationship between economics, business and peace.

May 20, 2008 www.visionofhumanity.org/gpi/home.php



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

Peace Pole Design Launch Celebration

The Calgary Community Peace Pole Committee hosted a very successful design launch celebration on May 22, 2008 at Eau Claire Market. The purpose of the event was to celebrate the progress so far on the peace pole project and to attract wider participation in the creation of this magnificent sculpture and the peace charter associated with it.

Cree elder and celebrated peace activist Doreen Spence welcomed everyone to the event. City of Calgary Alderman Druh Farrell “commends the Calgary Peace Pole Committee for living out their commitment to peace and building strong connections between many diverse communities in the city.” She listed the involvement of various City business units and stated that the project is accepted and celebrated by the City of Calgary.

Architects Marc Boutin and Ron Choe from Marc Boutin Architecture presented and described the design of the peace pole. “Our challenge as architects was to come up with a form and an aesthetic that would speak to all people, all people’s aspirations when they thought about the peace pole and peace. All of us no matter where we come from, or what we believe in, or geographically speaking how we are connected to the earth - what unites us is that we all exist *between sky and earth*. That was the guiding principle - to create not just a form or a sculpture but a place where people could come together to share their ideas and discuss peace, come together as a community.”

“The earth grows up, along and extends out into a metaphorical tree where people can gather around.” The tree is made up of two stainless steel plates, within which the word peace in various languages will be laser-cut. The plates will both reflect light and allow the light to pass through. Above the steel plates is the canopy of glass that is lit by LED lights to give the pole another quality when it is lit at night. The text ‘engage’ is cut out of granite to allow spaces where people can sit and have solitude moments, or gather one-on-one or two-by-two – with a large bench to allow a larger group to congregate. “The word ‘engage’ was debated quite ferociously by the Committee...it is not enough to say that you are interested in peace but that we all act upon that thought. We wanted to be a catalyst for people to engage in this process.”

The Peace Pole Committee began formally fundraising for the project the middle of April 2008 to add to funds that were previously donated in order to cover the costs of pole construction, installation, landscaping, unveiling ceremony and a 25 year upkeep deposit with the City of Calgary. The value of the project is estimated to be \$100,000 with a significant portion of this coming from in-kind donations from the architects, consultants, suppliers and sub-contractors. At the design launch event 14 organizations delivered cheques for amounts that had been pledged in the last month, contributing \$7,600 in total. The Committee continues to solicit both financial and volunteer support for the project as it moves into a construction phase this summer. This design launch celebration was made possible in part through a Neighbourhood Grant from The Calgary Foundation.

MC’s Julie Hrdlicka and Taleb Assef provided excellent guidance to the evening, giving the audience background information on peace poles and the Peace Pole Committee. Calgary musicians Barry Luft, the Raging Grannies, Anthony Burbidge, and Ligia Portal and Pedro Torres provided entertainment to the approximately 100 attendees.

The Peace Pole Committee thanks all who participated in this event and invites you to mark your calendars for Sunday, September 21, 2008 for the unveiling celebration!

Yes! I want to become a Project Ploughshares Calgary donor and partner in building peace.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

I’d like to become a Friend of Ploughshares and give a monthly donation of:

\$10 \$15 \$20 \$25 \$_____

(please attach a void cheque for monthly donations)

Here is my donation for this year of:

\$35 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$_____

(donations of \$10 or more will receive a tax receipt)

I’d like to receive the monthly newsletter by:

Email (recommended)

Mail (requires \$35 donation)

